LICENSING WOES SHUT DOWN NIGHTCLUB, PG 3

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Tran closer to deportation

COURT The Federal Court of Canada has decided not to review a deportation order against a notorious alleged Calgary gang member.

The decision — released after a judicial review — pushes Jackie Tran closer to being deported to Vietnam.

Tran's lawyer argued at last week's review that immigration authorities made mistakes when they dismissed the convicted drug trafficker's appeal of a 2004 deportation order that was based on serious criminality.

The 27-year-old man has one more avenue of appeal to stop his expulsion from Canada.

His lawyers have filed a request for a judicial review of a second deportation order that was issued on the basis that Tran is an alleged member of a criminal organization. A hearing on that matter is scheduled for April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move
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Vancouver Games
Countdown to 2010
Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
• Canada, U.S. remain cream of women's hockey crop, page 16

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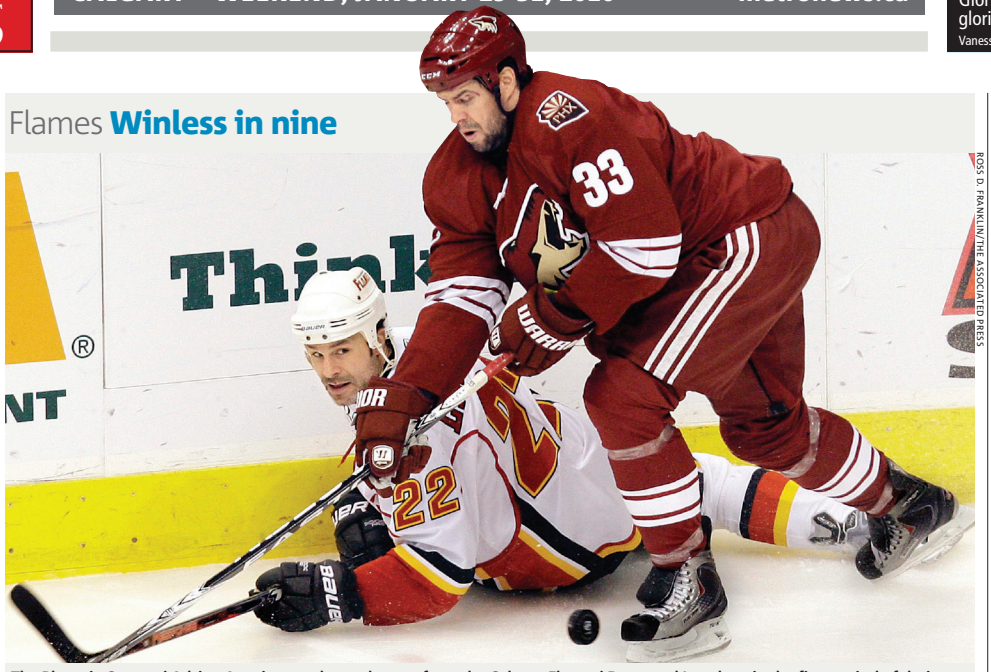
Flames **Winless in nine**



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Phoenix Coyotes' Adrian Aucoin gets the puck away from the Calgary Flames' Daymond Langkow in the first period of their NHL game Thursday in Glendale, Ariz. The Coyotes beat the Flames 3-2 in a shootout. Story, page 14

Generic drug costs cut

Prices to fall from 75 to 56% of brand-name expenses in April

Alberta is reducing the price of generic drugs after having to compromise on a new price structure in negotiations with pharmacies and drug makers.

The province had hoped to reduce the cost of existing generic drugs to 45 per cent of the brand-name price — down from 75 per cent.

But Health Minister Gene Zwozdesky announced Thursday that the government settled for a rate of 56 per cent starting in April.

"You have to come up with a deal that the majority of the pharmacists and pharmaceutical providers can live with," the minister told a news conference.

"While 45 per cent may have been a target, you can't always get what you want and neither can they."

The government estimated last fall during the first round of generic drug price changes that a new pricing formula would save Alberta roughly $100 million a year on generic drugs.

Several provinces including Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia have already adopted lower generic drug prices. But Zwozdesky conceded their prices are closer to 50 per cent of the brand-name price.

"Any steps the government takes to contain spending and costs on drugs is a good step." Kevin Taft, Liberal health critic

Margaret Wing, with the Alberta Pharmacists Association, said the deal announced Thursday is good for consumers, pharmacists and the province.

"Patients are going to be paying reduced costs on the generic drugs," she told reporters. "Pharmacists now have an opportunity to provide professional services and be compensated for that."

Liberal health critic Kevin Taft also praised the deal, calling it "a step in the right direction."

"We'd like it to continue to go further, but any steps the government takes to contain spending and costs on drugs is a good step," said Taft.

But David Eggen, with Friends of Medicare, said the government should have pushed harder to get a lower price.

"You won't achieve true savings for Albertans on drugs until you take on the drug manufacturers," said Eggen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

City man facing child-porn charges

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

CRIME After a four-month investigation, a Calgary man is facing numerous charges of child pornography and child exploitation against two young victims, according to the provincial solicitor general.

The ALERT Integrated Child Exploitation Unit received information in September that a man was in possession of child pornography. The suspect was initially charged in November.

Upon further investigation, two non-family child victims were identified and more charges were laid as a result, officials said.

"Keeping Alberta's children safe from those who would prey on them is a vital function of ALERT, and it is a role they continue to excel in," Solicitor General Frank Oberle said.

"ALERT's integrated policing model is proving to be very effective at getting drugs, gangs and predators off Alberta streets and keeping Alberta communities safe and secure."

Bradley Shawn Lemire, 46, of Calgary is charged with possession of child pornography, making child pornography, sexual assault, sexual interference and voyeurism. He is in custody pending his next court appearance on Tuesday.

Police are continuing to investigate and ask anyone with information to contact Det. Justin Brookes at 403-206-5719.

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Local

Bublé crooning at Pengrowth in August

Popular crooner Michael Bublé is bringing his Crazy Love Tour in support of his new album with the same name to the Pengrowth Saddledome on Aug. 17. On-sale dates and tickets will be released next week. The Burnaby, B.C., singer skipped Edmonton during his tour announcements. Bublé was in Calgary for the Juno Awards in 2008. METRO CALGARY

Transit giving $4K fund to Haiti relief

RED CROSS Calgary Transit is pitching in to help those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

Bus service lane employees collect thousands of cans and bottles left on Calgary C-Trains and the refund is donated annually to a charity of the employees' choice.

This year, the group will donate the $4,000 raised from the recycling refund to the Canadian Red Cross to help provide relief services in Haiti. METRO CALGARY

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CalgaryTweets

@Roger Well I'm heading down to Flames Central for some much needed fun & also to support the wonderful #YYC4Haiti fundraising effort. Woot! #yyc

@danellew At #yyc4haiti. If you're not, you should be! #yyc Flames Central

@ActingJack: I spent the craziest week of my life in Calgary during Stampede! not one bit surprised at the response to #yyc4haiti awesome people

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What's online today.

Video A tender moment between a man and his hen on a New York subway gets the attention of authorities at **metronews.ca/world**

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes Chivas defender Ante Jazic to discuss his upcoming season

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Iconic after-hours club closes

Warehouse, Underground call it quits after licensing issue

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Hardcore bass thumping and dancing into the wee hours of the morning at one of Calgary's cornerstone niche nightclubs is now a thing of the past.

The Warehouse and Underground officially shut their doors Thursday after serving the city's underground and afterhours scene for 26 years, according to manager Chris Hewitt.

The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) suspended the club's class C licence last Friday, stating the venue has outgrown the licence which requires them to be a "non-profit, member-only venue."

"We pulled the licence because it does not meet requirements. They are not non-profit and are not member only; they advertise to the general public," AGLC spokesperson Lynn Hutchings-Mah said, adding they tried to work with the club to apply for another licence.

But Hewitt says the club simply cannot take the necessary weeks and dollars necessary to apply for a licence they may not be approved for due to city zoning regulations.

"It's been an unfortunate chain of events, and it's very distressing for everybody involved but there were simply no options. There will be a massive hole in the Calgary nightlife now," Hewitt told Metro.

Hewitt is concerned about where the regular customers will turn to, with no other venue in the city like the Warehouse.

Hundreds of Calgarians took the news with a bitter taste in their mouths, turning to Facebook to grieve the city's nightlife loss.

"A piece of my heart was broken when I heard the news," Sydney Branheim said.

ROBIN KUNISKY/FOR METRO CALGARY

Calgary's most famous after-hours nightclub has shut its doors after deciding not to go through with an application for a new licence. The club served the city's underground and after-hours scene for 26 years. Manager Chris Hewitt says the closing will leave "a massive hole in the Calgary nightlife."

Secondary-suite changes concern residents

BYLAW The proposed simplification of secondary-suite rules have concerned residents up in arms over what they say is already condensed parking.

Laurie Kimber, co-ordinator of land-use bylaw said the draft changes could go to council by spring and would help make the rules clearer.

"They are meant to remove some confusion and mainly make the rules easier to understand," Kimber said.

If the proposed changes went ahead, they would also allow a slight relaxation of the 700 square foot area limit in some zones, and allow back entrances.

But the proposals have concerned residents even more anxious over what they call "parking lots" on their streets, including Pineridge resident Matthew Hyatt.

"The streets are already filled with cars, some houses have four cars while we have to find parking on the side streets to park our two and we own our home," he said.

Ward 7 Ald. Druh Farrell said the reason parking is a problem isn't because of legal secondary suites — it's because of illegal suites.

"There are literally thousands and we don't necessarily know where all of them are. I think there are a variety of problems we need to put on the table and come up with a solution," she said, adding perhaps council would need to look at how many parking passes are handed out.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

ARMSTRONG, Edward Albert (Ed)
ASH, Cynthia Ann (nee MacLeod)
BENTSON, Wayne Douglas
ELLIS, Robert (Bob) Sampson
EVANGELISTA, Antonietta Matilda (nee Petrollini)
FRASER, Katherina Ann
HOOPER, Asta May Rita (nee Zuckerberg)
HYSHKA, Bernice Frances
JACKSON, Ervie Harvey Willis
JOBIN, Louis Joseph
KANNA, Agnes Aki
LAVERS, Richard James (Dick)
MACKEY, John-Michael
MCGREGOR, Leslie Ann
MCLAREN, Geoffrey Charles
McLEAN, Marie Blanche (nee Pouliot)
MORRISON, Donald Bruce
NEGENMAN, Diane Lorraine (nee Desnoyers)
PEARL, Irene Thomas
PETLEY, Allen Michael (Mike)
PHELAN, Donald (Don) Gordon
SCOTT, Wayne
SHERWOOD, Gladys (Joy) (Essa)
THACKER, Anne Margaret
VINCENT, Jennifer (Jenny)
WALDER, William Donald (Don)
WOLF LEG, Trudy Louise

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

Police service graduates 19 new recruits
The Calgary Police Service is proud to graduate the next boots on city streets. Nineteen members of Recruit class #189 will be ceremoniously sent into their final 15 weeks of basic learning with CPS police training officers, after today's event at the Mewata Armoury. METRO CALGARY

Fire levels northeast home

All four residents out of house at time of blaze: Official

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Without knowing if anyone was inside, fire crews battled a fire in the city's northeast Thursday afternoon.

Fire spokesperson Jeff Budai said crews initially didn't know if the occupants were in the house located in the 4800 block of 84th Avenue NE, but were relieved when the homeowner arrived and told them the four residents were accounted for.

"Because this home is on an acreage, the blaze was contained to the one home," he said, adding a black tornado of smoke and flames engulfed the roof of the home located just outside Saddleridge.

With help of rural firefighters, crews entered through the front door, but were forced out as the main floor gave away.

When they attempted to enter through the back door, they discovered the floor had been burnt through.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Crews finish putting out the hotspots of a fire just outside the city's limits Thursday afternoon. Nobody was home or injured during the fire.

Due to the lack of fire hydrants in the area, rural tanker trucks had to continuously bring water to the scene to fight the fire at 2:30 p.m.

"Unfortunately because of the lack of a prompt water supply, the home was totally destroyed by fire," Budai said.

Crews are still investigating the cause of the fire and the damage amount. Budai said more than 50 firefighters attended the scene with 25 pieces of equipment.

Top court denies appeal over Jehovah's girl's death

LAWSUIT The Supreme Court won't rule on a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the grieving father of a Jehovah's Witness girl who fought blood transfusions on religious grounds.

As is its practice, the high court did not give reasons for denying Lawrence Hughes leave to appeal in a case involving the death of his teenage daughter Bethany.

Hughes had alleged that the Watch Tower Society, its lawyers and religious leaders deliberately misled his daughter about medical treatment by urging her to refuse transfusions to treat her leukemia.

The Alberta government won temporary custody of the teenager in 2002 and she was given 38 transfusions that she fiercely resisted from her bed at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. She died of acute myeloid leukemia in September of that year.

Lawyer David Gnam, who represents the Watch Tower Society and was named in the lawsuit, said the ruling was "a great relief."

"We especially appreciate the fact that the Supreme Court took only three weeks to dismiss it from the time it was first referred to a panel to the decision," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transfusions

- Jehovah's Witnesses believe it is wrong to accept transfusions because certain Bible passages forbid the ingestion of blood.

Homelessness plan progressing: Group

TARGETS Two years into the Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, the Calgary Homeless Foundation is reporting solid progress.

More affordable housing has been created in the past two years than the last decade, president and CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation said.

"This is especially admirable given the current economic context — where high unemployment rates are coupled with high housing costs," Tim Richter said.

However, the community is behind two targets in the plan: Ending family homelessness and stopping the growth of homelessness.

"We are getting a better understanding of family homelessness and are refocusing our efforts," Richter added.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

FUNDING The federal and provincial governments are teaming up to spend more than $140 million on 33 infrastructure projects in Alberta, including work in Calgary. The funding includes $15 million upgrade to Deerfoot Trail between the Ivor Strong Bridge and 17th Ave. The Airport tunnel is not on the list.

CRIME Calgary police are looking for a man who may be responsible for a number of break-ins in the mission area over the past several weeks. He is described as Caucasian, about 45 years old, five-foot-eight, 160 pounds with salt and pepper hair. He was seen in a tan-coloured jacket.

KEYNOTE The U of C Dinos baseball dinner will have two-time World Series champion Ken Griffey Sr. at their annual dinner Tuesday night at the Red and White Club. Griffey Sr. joins a list of former baseball stars, including Jim Abbott, Jack Morris and Bill Buckner as speakers at the annual event.

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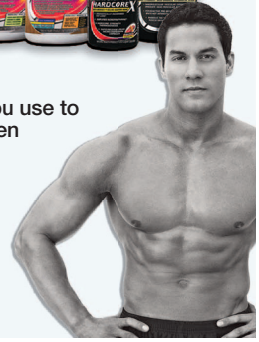

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Scientists call on Charest to stop asbestos exporting

Scientists from 28 countries are appealing to Quebec Premier Jean Charest to put a stop to asbestos exports from the province. They are asking Charest in a letter dated Thursday to take heed of extensive international scientific opinion that all forms of asbestos present a danger for public health. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Fonyo wants Order of Canada back

The man who raised millions for cancer research is thanking the public for supporting him after he was stripped of the Order of Canada. Steve Fonyo, left, made the comment from jail, where he is serving the remainder of an assault sentence after breaching his parole conditions. The Order of Canada can be revoked for several reasons, including when a recipient has been convicted of a criminal offence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mystery over missile-like object deepens

NEWFOUNDLAND Questions continue to swirl around claims that missiles had been spotted over Newfoundland's southern coast, with a Liberal MP accusing Ottawa of providing no answers on the mysterious sightings. Gerry Byrne, the MP for Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte, said Thursday he had received no further information on the missile-like objects seen earlier this week.

A radio station in St. John's, N.L., said a French media outlet reported that France had conducted a ballistic missile test in the Atlantic Ocean, but far from the area where something was seen. No one from the French Embassy in Ottawa was available for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harpers calls for G20 unity

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is warning other G20 leaders that the very body that eased the world out of recession could fail unless countries put their differences aside.

"It will stand or fall on its ability to demonstrate in the months to come to come the same co-operative spirit it has shown over the past year," Harper told an audience of bankers, business executives, government leaders and economists.

"I am hopeful."

In a speech Thursday at the Davos World Economic Forum in Switzerland, the prime minister laid out his priorities for the G20 and G8 summits that Canada will host at the end of June.

He credited unprecedented co-operation among G20 members for cushioning the blow of the recession last year, but said countries now need to embrace what he is calling "enlightened sovereignty."

That's when a country acts in the best interests of others because, in the end, the country's own self-interests will benefit.

"When the G20 resumes in Toronto, the discussion should be ... less about narrow self-interest in sovereignty's name, than an expanded view of mutual interest, in which there is room for all to grow and prosper."

He said G20 countries need to get on the same page when it comes to cracking down on banking activity, implementing stimulus programs and designing exit strategies to eventually reduce debt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday.

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN The Canadian military has ordered a formal investigation into how a critical report on the beating of an Afghan prisoner remained buried at National Defence headquarters. In June 2006 soldiers captured a suspected Taliban fighter and handed him over to local police, who then beat him to the point where the Canadians had to intervene.

LAWSUIT The Supreme Court of Canada has rejected a request to rule on provisions of a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the grieving father of a Jehovah's Witness girl.

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SCANLIFE

Many young Afghan vets struggle with returning to Canada, and a new outdoor program aims to ease the burden. Scan this code for the story.

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Canadians pleased with Tory response to Haiti: Poll

A new poll suggests a large majority of Canadians of all political stripes believe the Conservative government has responded well to the earthquake crisis in Haiti. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey found that 71 per cent of respondents ranked the federal actions as good (41 per cent) or excellent (30 per cent). THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Brunswick **Fallen Mountie laid to rest**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Gallagher family look on as the casket carrying RCMP Sgt. Mark Gallagher, who died in the Haiti earthquake two weeks ago, is taken from his funeral mass in Woodstock, N.B., on Thursday.

Appointments give Tories lead in Senate

The Conservatives will have effective control in both houses of Parliament and greater sway over the legislative agenda after Prime Minister Stephen Harper names five new senators Friday.

The appointment of the new Conservative senators will end years of Liberal domination in the Upper Chamber and leave the Conservatives just two seats shy of a majority there.

The power shift could help clear the way for Harper's plans to reform the Senate itself.

Harper is poised to appoint two senators from Ontario and one each in Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In Quebec, victim's right activist Pierre-Hughes Boisvenu is expected to be named to the Senate.

"I've concluded that if the opportunity presented itself, it would be an opportunity to serve the country and to promote the ideas I've defended in the areas of justice and public security in Canada," Boisvenu told Sherbrooke's Tribune newspaper Wednesday, saying he had not heard from Harper at that point.

Other names circulating include former fisheries minister Loyola Sullivan from Newfoundland, Margaret-Ann Blaney, a former minister in the New Brunswick government or Bernard Valcourt, a former member of the Mulroney cabinet and former Ontario provincial minister Bob Runciman.

Runciman has longstanding ties to Harper's side of the Conservative family. He supported the Canadian Alliance in its early days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper's agenda

- Control of the Senate floor as well as bulked up numbers on Senate committees should mean a smoother ride for government bills through the legislative process. More importantly, Harper has said he would like to push ahead with his stalled efforts to make changes to the Senate, such as eight-year term limits and Senate elections in the provinces.

Mountie in Surrey Six probe charged with fraud

B.C. Another RCMP member involved with the Surrey Six investigation is in trouble.

Const. Steve Perrault has been charged with one count of fraud and another count of attempted fraud for two overtime forms he submitted in the summer of 2009.

He was removed from the investigation in August and placed on administrative duties.

This is the second black eye for Surrey Six investigators in one week, after Sgt. Derek Brassington was also assigned to administrative duties in December of 2009 for having a relationship with a potential witness. METRO CANADA

Canada boosting funds to fight drugs in Afghanistan, but not Taliban talks

DRUGS Canada will nearly double its funding for the war against drugs in Afghanistan, but isn't ready to contribute cash to pay for negotiations with the Taliban.

Canada will contribute an extra $25 million to fight the spread of Afghanistan's illicit poppy crop — the backbone of the global heroin trade — on top of a previous contribution of $30 million, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Thursday from London.

Cannon was representing Canada at an international meeting on Afghanistan. Delegates were plotting the eventual Western exit from the strife-torn country amid rising military casualties and growing public opposition after more than eight years of war.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai told delegates from about 70 countries that he wants to convene a peace conference in his country to lure Taliban fighters to renounce violence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Negotiations

- Karzai's government has for years backed talks with less militant members of the insurgency, but Kabul and Western allies all agree that there is no prospect that hardened al-Qaida leaders could ever be coaxed to a negotiating table.

News in brief

FRAUD The Supreme Court of Canada says it won't hear the Quebec securities regulator's arguments on whether it can ask for consecutive sentences for fraudsters. The regulator wanted the court to study the case of Norbourg fraudster Vincent Lacroix.

GAMES West Vancouver's Cypress mountain, which will host freestyle skiing and snowboarding events during the 2010 Games, was shut down earlier this month due to warm weather and heavy rain. But organizers say they've made tremendous progress by moving more than 300 truckloads of snow from the top of the mountain. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Winter of discontent

Don't blame snow removal crews for troubles on streets

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey

metronews.ca/paskey

The irony is his name: South. Terry South. This is his sander. And in it he's sprayed and scraped the city streets for the last 13 years.

It's a large white truck emblazoned with the city logo, a small shovel underneath, light brownish gunk encrusted on the chute on the back. The sign says: Keep Back 10 Metres.

Do people?, I ask.

"No," laughs South, who takes tailgaters in stride. When storms hit, he sprays a mix of salt and sand on the streets. When things calm down, there's sidewalks to do, gravel to pick up and potholes to repair.

I'm here at District 1, where downtown snow removal is centred: Sanders, blowers, Bobcats. But these machines can't match freezing rain, or storms that begin right before rush hour at 5 a.m., or 2 p.m.

South and I stand in the yard's ankle-deep slush. He's clad in workboots, an orange safety vest, and despite plunging cold, he's not shivering. "Our snow, it's goofy," he tells me.

Calgary weather is famously volatile. And so are the tempers of Calgarians.

The winter of discontent has arrived. December snows paralyzed the city and many residential areas are still digging out.

"The snow guys have a few things to say: Firstly, they are bound by city council's snow policy and as much as they'd love to be on your residential street, they can't."

Truth be told, feelings are a bit raw. "We're working as hard as we can," says South, while his baseball-capped colleague chips in: "We have families, too. We are citizens, we care about the roads."

The snow guys have a few things to say: Firstly, they are bound by city council's snow policy and as much as they'd love to be on your residential street, they can't. Secondly, there's only so many of them, with so many pieces of equipment and they get stuck at red lights, in traffic, just like you.

And when some driver with bald tires spins into another, our road crews are stuck in a logjam.

Expectations are high. The city's snow budget went over by $6 million last year.

So now it's official. Ald. Brian Pincott will lead a review of all snow clearing this year. He's done the right thing. "We've gone over budget 15 of the last 19 years, we can't pretend it doesn't cost what it costs," he says.

The number crunchers should come down to the yards, stand in the slush, hop in the truck cabs and help sand a street or two.

Janice Paskey teaches at Mount Royal University and is a volunteer with Westwood Hockey.

Sounds too good to be true – it probably is

Marketplace

Erica Johnson

metronews.ca/johnson

Admit it — at some time in your life you've said to yourself, "I wish I was rich."

That desire is not a crime — but it may be leading people to waste their money, and their time, at a popular weekend workshop we've been investigating.

The workshop is called "Learn to Be Rich." Ads feature Robert Kiyosaki, author of Rich Dad, Poor Dad — one of the bestselling financial help books ever written. And the workshops are popular — rolling into towns across Canada every weekend, filling ballrooms with people eager to learn how to turn around their financial fortunes.

People are told they will learn valuable skills in real estate development, or how to play the stock market. But at Marketplace, we were hearing complaints about the three-day workshops (that cost $500), so we decided to enrol in one on real estate.

The problems started within the first half-hour, where our instructor told us we weren't, in fact, going to get the tools needed that weekend to get rich. Turns out, this weekend workshop was just a primer — we really needed to sign up for more advanced courses. And the cost for those? A mere $12,000 to $45,000!

But there was to be no discussion of the price — our trainer told us if we didn't like it, he would tell us to leave.

In fact, throughout the weekend, we felt bullied and pressured to sign up for the advanced courses (where the real money was to be made). There was some instruction, but when we met with real estate lawyer Bob Aaron, he called what we were taught "bad advice," and said many techniques were just plain "dumb."

To make matters worse, our instructor misled us with a whopper of a tale, and later blew up at participants because not enough people took the opportunity to shell out up to $45,000 for more courses.

You'll see it all in our story tonight, but it left us questioning what financial guru Kiyosaki thought about it all.

When we caught up with him, even Kiyosaki admitted there were problems with some of the tactics used in the workshops that bear his Rich Dad brand.

Bottom line? That age old nugget holds — if a weekend workshop on how to be rich sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Erica Johnson co-hosts Marketplace on CBC Television, which airs Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

Tips when researching seminars

- Use the Internet to check out the seminar instructor or company beforehand. Or, using a search engine, type in phrases from their advertising along with the word "complaints." The results may reveal a history you didn't expect.
- Be wary of "free" seminars. Often they serve as forums to sell books, CDs, tapes or further seminars.
- If you're asked for money upfront or to raise your credit card limit to fund further seminars, that's a big red flag to take your time and business elsewhere.
- Take your seminar advice to an independent real estate expert for a second opinion. Are the ideas practical or just a lot of hot air?

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Stratospheric vapour affects warming: Study

The slowdown in global warming in the last few years may have been caused by a decline in water vapour in the stratosphere, a new report suggests.

While climate warming is continuing — the decade of 2000 to 2009 was the hottest on record worldwide — the increase in temperatures was not as rapid as in the 1990s.

Balloon and satellite observations show the amount of water vapour in a layer about 16 kilometres high declined after 2000.

The stratosphere extends from about 12 to 48 kilometres above the Earth's surface.

The reason for the decline is unknown, according to researchers led by Susan Solomon of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They report their findings in Thursday's online edition of the journal Science.

According to the researchers, water vapour enters the stratosphere primary from air rising in the tropics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potent gas

- Water vapour is a potent greenhouse gas, and its decline in the stratosphere would reduce the rate of global warming expected from other gases such as carbon dioxide, the researchers said.

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Suspected serial rapist arrested
Authorities say a suspected serial rapist has been captured in Austria after his DNA was linked to two cases in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cpl. Lucie Rouleau, left, from Quebec City, and Cpl. Monique Bartlett, from Oromocto, N.B., hold Monique-Lucie Marie Thursday after delivering her at the Canadian DART clinic in Jacmel, Haiti.

What's in a name?

Haiti
Crisis

If you read this story in a few years' time, Monique-Lucie Marie, here's how things happened on the day you were born.

You came into the world in a medical clinic run by the Canadian military, in a canvas tent just a few metres off the beach in Haiti. Your country had just been crippled by a powerful earthquake that reduced the area around you to chunks of rubble. Your grand entry occurred on a Thursday, with the help of the Canadian soldiers who'd come to lend a hand in your battered nation.

Your first name, by the way, comes from Canada.

Its origins can be traced back to places called Oromocto, N.B., and Quebec City, the respective home towns of Cpl. Monique Bartlett and Master Cpl. Lucie Rouleau, the two Canadian medical technicians who assisted in the delivery.

Your father promised he'd tell you one day why he and your mom chose it.

"I did it to say thank you," said Jean-Charles Pierre. "I will tell her one day that in the middle of a natural catastrophe, Canadians were in Jacmel. And she carries their name." Yours was the first delivery of a baby in the military clinic in Jacmel, the base of Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girl rescued

- A 16-year-old girl pulled from the rubble more than two weeks after the earthquake was in stable condition Thursday to the surprise of doctors, who said her survival was medically inexplicable.

Man allegedly abused Haitians

SCHOOL A Colorado man charged with sexually abusing boys at a school he founded for street children in Haiti faces new charges that raise the number of alleged victims to 18. Authorities accuse Douglas Perlitz of enticing children at the Project Pierre Toussaint school in Cap-Haitien into sex acts by promising them food, shelter, cash, cellphones, electronics and shoes.

They say he also withheld benefits and threatened to expel the boys if they refused his wishes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music labels continue hunt

MINNESOTA A trade group representing major music labels said it will reject a reduced penalty for a woman found guilty of sharing 24 songs over the Internet, and will instead begin preparing for another trial to determine new damages. The Recording Industry Association of America made the decision after attorneys for Jammie Thomas-Rasset rejected an offer from RIAA attorneys to settle. It will be the third time the case, which dates back to 2006, will see trial in a federal court.

Last year, a jury ruled Thomas-Rasset, wilfully violated the copyrights on 24 songs.

She was ordered to pay $1.92 million US in damages, or $80,000 per song. Last week, a judge reduced the verdict to about $54,000 in damages, calling the jury's penalty "monstrous and shocking." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Iran vows to follow Thursday's executions with justice for other 'foreign-linked' anti-regime activists. Scan this code for the story.

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Bernanke confirmed to second term
The U.S. Senate has confirmed Ben Bernanke for a second term as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama's speech spawns controversy

The U.S. Supreme Court justices may never show up again, journalist Chris Matthews is on the defensive and Republicans are taking issue with being chided for their partisanship.

State of the Union addresses historically disappear into the ether, having not the slightest impact on a president's standing in the polls, given a cynical public that considers the events little more than prime time advertisements for the current administration. But U.S. President Barack Obama's speech and its aftermath was the talk of Washington Thursday — in particular, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's response to Obama's criticism about a recent high court ruling to roll back limits on corporate spending on political campaigns.

In keeping with tradition, the other five judges in attendance sat stone-faced through much of the address; an ailing Ruth Ginsburg even nodded off. Supreme Court justices, after all, must not appear to be partisan.

But Alito, a George W. Bush appointee, shook his head, furrowed his brow and uttered "not true, not true" when Obama said, erroneously, that the court had reversed a century of law with its decision.

Matthews, the MSNBC host, was under fire for the remark he made while praising Obama's "post-racial" presidency and his role in helping to end racial prejudice: "I forgot he was black." Those five words immediately caused a frenzy on Twitter and in the blogosphere, with hundreds of commenters either questioning what Matthews meant or openly accusing him of racism.

Matthews returned to the air soon after to explain himself — in short, that it was a thrill for him, having grown up during the civil rights movement, to watch a black president address a Congressional gathering made up of mostly white people.

Republicans, meantime, were still smarting Thursday after being scolded by Obama for voting against every piece of legislation "just because they can."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Politics of decorum

• Wednesday's speech saw what was considered a breach of decorum on behalf of both U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and U.S. President Barack Obama — Alito for responding, and Obama for criticizing the Supreme Court, even though Abraham Lincoln once expressed his disgust for a pro-slavery Supreme Court ruling.

London **Throwing money around**

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters wearing masks, from left, of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, U.S. President Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, throw 'money' into a bucket in a demonstration outside Lancaster House in London on Thursday where the Afghanistan Conference is taking place. The demonstration is to highlight the urgent need for improving the way aid money is spent by the international community in Afghanistan and making sure more of it reaches those who need it most.

Eat more pork for a better sex life, Argentina's president tells country

SEX AND FOOD Argentina's president thinks eating pig meat is really sexy.

Many people in this beef-loving nation reacted with surprise Thursday after Cristina Fernandez promoted pork in a speech during which she not only said pork is better than Viagra, but suggested she's personally proven it.

"It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra."
Cristina Fernandez, Argentina's president

"I didn't know that eating pork improved sexual activity," Fernandez said in a meeting with representatives of the swine industry late Wednesday. "It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra."

She even joked that "it was all good" after she enjoyed some pork with her husband, former President Nestor Kirchner.

"I think they might be right," Fernandez said to a laughing audience.

The president's half-joking speech in which she announced subsidies for the pork industry won prominent play on television and radio stations, prompting discussions on whether Argentines should add more pork to their diet.

Argentines are among the world's biggest consumers of red meat, and most people there stubbornly reject the idea of replacing beef with chicken, pork or other meats. Despite Argentina lying along rich South Atlantic fisheries, seafood is rarely seen on dinner tables.

Fernandez approved subsidies to keep the price of pork low despite inflation, and her government has also recently subsidized red meat producers after beef supplies sharply declined in the South American country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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iPad awaits price drop breakout
Apple Inc.'s iPad tablet may take a year to turn into a "breakout" product with mass-market appeal as consumers wait for the price to drop below $499 and for more publishers to get on board. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Singapore **Sales grounded**

WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jetstar CEO Bruce Buchanan speaks during the Low Cost Airline Conference Thursday in Singapore. International air traffic suffered its worst post-war decline last year amid the worst recession since the Great Depression, the industry said Wednesday.

Doubts cast on big employment pickup

Surveys and methodologies show great disparity

A new Statistics Canada employment survey has cast a cloud over its previously announced large pickup in jobs in November.

The delayed survey of industry released Thursday found that employers shed 33,800 net jobs in November.

Last month, Statistics Canada, reporting on a survey of Canadian households, found employers added 111,000 jobs in November — a number that shocked many economists and seemed to signal the advent of a strong economic rebound.

That data indicated an actual net gain of 79,000 jobs because of a drop in the number of self-employed. This is the second time in four months that the two surveys — which use different methodologies — have shown such a pronounced disparity.

Economists say that over time the two surveys even out, but some suggest that the industry estimate likely more accurately reflects the current underlying weakness in Canada's labour market. The industry survey also most closely resembles the U.S. nonfarm payroll data used to calculate unemployment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scarcity remains

- Another sign that good jobs are still scarce is that average employee weekly earnings rose a mere 1.3 per cent in November from a year earlier, just barely above inflation.

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SCANLIFE

Huge jump in Microsoft's earnings lead the way for a wider computer industry rebound. Scan this code for the story.

Toyota mum on fixing cars

AUTOMOTIVE Toyota has begun shipping parts to fix the faulty gas pedals that led to a still-expanding recall and an unprecedented decision to stop selling and building some of its top-selling models, but it still could not say Thursday when millions of its drivers would get their cars fixed.

The world's largest automaker, bleeding millions of dollars a day in lost sales, also declined to say where the parts are going — to plants so production can start again or to dealers so they can start fixing cars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

PURCHASE A group of homeowners and local businesspeople have teamed up to buy the Panorama Mountain Village ski resort in the B.C. Rockies south of Kootenay National park from financially troubled Intrawest. Intrawest is owned by private equity firm Fortress Investment Group, which took on massive debt to buy it for $3.1 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Enbridge Inc. strikes deal

ENERGY Oil and gas transportation firm Enbridge Inc. has struck an agreement with the FCCL Partnership between ConocoPhillips and EnCana to build additional pipeline and terminal facilities supporting expansion of the Christina Lake oilsands project.

The expansion at Christina Lake, operated by the Cenovus Energy unit split off from EnCana last year, is estimated to cost about $250 million and be in service late in 2011, Enbridge said Thursday.

Christina Lake's existing facilities are currently tied in to Enbridge's Athabasca pipeline that moves crude oil from five oilsands projects to the Hardisty and Edmonton mainline hubs.

Enbridge shares were down five cents at $46.62 in morning trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Murray in final

Andy Murray has reached the Australian Open final and is still hoping to achieve what no British man has done in more than 70 years — win a Grand Slam singles title. Murray beat Marin Cilic Thursday night in a semifinal to advance to Sunday's championship match. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Robbie makes it into one Hall

Unlike Cooperstown, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame isn't wasting any time in adding Roberto Alomar to its ranks. The former Toronto Blue Jays second baseman will be enshrined at the museum in St. Marys, Ont., this summer after being named for induction Thursday. Earlier this month, Alomar missed out on being named for induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., by eight votes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

ROSS FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phoenix Coyotes goalie Ilya Bryzgalov makes a save on a shot by Calgary Flame Rene Bourque on Thursday in Glendale, Ariz.

Flames sink farther

NHL RESULT

Calgary 2 Phoenix 3 (SO)

The Coyotes blew a two-goal, second-period lead, but Robert Lang and Lauri Korpikoski scored in the shootout to give Phoenix a 3-2 victory and send the Calgary Flames to their ninth straight game without a win Thursday night.

Keith Yandle and Shane Doan scored in regulation for the Coyotes, 21-1-2 when leading after two periods. Phoenix earned its 31st win of the season in its 54th game, the fastest the Coyotes have reached that total in the 30-year history of the franchise.

Mark Giordano and rookie Mikael Backlund scored for the Flames, who are in the midst of their longest winless streak since dropping 11 straight during December and January of the 1985-86 season.

Backlund and Olli Jokinen were stopped in the shootout by Phoenix's Ilya Bryzgalov, who earned a career-best 28th win.

St. Louis 2 Edmonton 1 —

The Edmonton Oilers' winless streak now sits at 12 games after a 2-1 loss to the St. Louis Blues on Thursday night.

Eric Brewer and Alexander Steen scored for the Blues (24-22-8), who upped their impressive road record to 15-8-4.

Dustin Penner replied for the Oilers (16-30-6), who are now winless in 19 of their last 20 games and are approaching the franchise record winless streak of 14 games set in 1993. That Oiler team had 13 losses and one tie between Oct. 16 and Nov. 7.

Minnesota 1 Colorado 0 —

Martin Havlat's goal with 4:49 left sent the Minnesota Wild to a 1-0 win over Colorado on Thursday night, denying Craig Anderson another shutout and handing the Avalanche their first loss since Jan. 8 at Carolina.

Ottawa 4 Pittsburgh 1 —

Brian Elliot made 30 saves to win his sixth consecutive start and the Ottawa Senators tied a club record with their eighth straight win, 4-1, over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday night.

L.A. 4 Columbus 1 —

Anze Kopitar scored his 100th and 101st career goals and the Los Angeles Kings tied a season high with their fourth straight win, 4-1, over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ScanLife

Despite being everything the Olympics wants these days, Canadian extreme-skiing champ Sarah Burke will be on the sidelines in Vancouver. Scan this code for the story.

Sports in brief

CYCLING A new Canadian cycling team with dreams of racing at the Tour de France in 2013 was unveiled Thursday in Toronto. The team, comprised of 13 Canadians, an American and one rider from Mexico, will compete across North America and in Europe this year.

NFL New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez might have surgery this off-season to stabilize the patella ligament in his left knee. Sanchez won't need any procedures on his right knee, which was injured earlier this season.

MLS Major League Soccer and its players agreed Thursday to extend bargaining through Feb. 12 in an effort to avoid a work stoppage. The league's five-year labour contract expires Sunday and players have feared management would lock them out the following day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Phoenix 3 CALGARY 2 (SO)
Ottawa 4 Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 2 Edmonton 1
Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 3
Carolina 4 N.Y. Islanders 1
Los Angeles 4 Columbus 1
Minnesota 1 Colorado 0
Chicago at San Jose

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

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Dallas at Phoenix

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Bosh headed back to all-star game

Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh is headed back to the NBA all-star game. Bosh and Utah's Deron Williams, both Dallas natives, will take part in the showcase event in their hometown, which will include seven first-time selections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The case for Clara

Hughes is the right Canadian to carry the flag in Vancouver

For a country that has not always been defined by patriotism, the choice of a flagbearer is one that most Canadians view as a sacred trust.

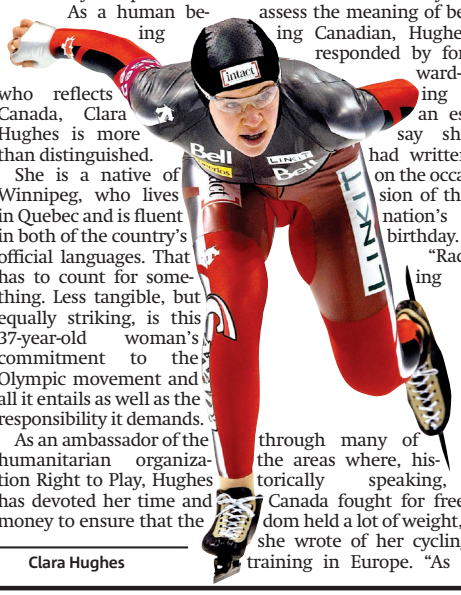
It's a decision not taken lightly. The person selected has to be just right.

There are many qualified athletes out there but none fits the bill better than a cyclist turned speedskater named Clara Hughes.

It's awfully hard to argue against her.

Hughes transcends statistics and accomplishments on the field of play. Based on the fact that she is a five-time Olympian and the winner of five medals, as well as being the only Canadian to have ascended the podium at both the Winter and Summer Games, Hughes soars above most of the rest.

Her credentials as an athlete are beyond question.



Clara Hughes

As a human being who reflects Canada, Clara Hughes is more than distinguished.

She is a native of Winnipeg, who lives in Quebec and is fluent in both of the country's official languages. That has to count for something. Less tangible, but equally striking, is this 37-year-old woman's commitment to the Olympic movement and all it entails as well as the responsibility it demands.

As an ambassador of the humanitarian organization Right to Play, Hughes has devoted her time and money to ensure that the world's most disadvantaged children are positively affected by sport. In short, she represents the most elusive of all things — hope.

When asked recently to assess the meaning of being Canadian, Hughes responded by forwarding an essay she had written on the occasion of the nation's birthday.

"Racing through many of the areas where, historically speaking, Canada fought for freedom held a lot of weight," she wrote of her cycling training in Europe. "As a young person, it made me see that my country was indeed a special place."

Clara Hughes understands that being Canadian is a privilege and a way of living that conjures up strength.

She discovered this on the start line of her first Olympic cycling race in Atlanta in 1996.

"It was an energy that I had never felt before," she admitted.

"The mythology of the Olympics combined with that Maple Leaf on my back gave me a feeling of limitless possibilities. On that day I had all of Canada inside of me."

Clara Hughes is what Canada needs in a flagbearer.

She's someone for whom a country's expectations are never a burden but rather a way to be empowered.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Serena stands in the way of Henin's storybook finish

"We bring out the best game in each other."
Serena Williams

TENNIS Even Serena Williams likes the story of Justine Henin's comeback.

It's an "amazing" tale, Williams said.

Only two tournaments into her return from a 20-month retirement, Henin has made it all the way to the Australian Open final. Her only obstacle to a happy ending Saturday is Williams.

"Justine hasn't been gone that long, but it's still a good story," said Williams, who has a long and intense rivalry with Henin that has never included a Grand Slam final.

The top-ranked Williams and the former No. 1 Henin have played 13 times, including six Grand Slam showdowns that went as far as only the semifinals. Serena holds a 7-6 edge in their overall matchups. In Grand Slams, Henin leads 4-2.

"We bring out the best game in each other," said the 28-year-old Williams. "I think that we both just play our hearts out. I think that's what creates a good rivalry."

The last time Williams played a Belgian at a Grand Slam, it didn't go so well. Williams' tirade over a line call in her U.S. Open semifinal against Kim Clijsters cost her a record $82,500 US fine.

Henin is usually cautious about sounding too optimistic. But she was elated Thursday after winning her semifinal against 2008 Wimbledon semifinalist Zheng Jie 6-1, 6-0. The match lasted 51 minutes and was the most lopsided semifinal at the Australian Open since Chris Evert beat Andrea Jaeger by the same score in 1982.

"I'm aware that this is extraordinary," Henin said. "I never would have thought that when I got on the plane I would be here in the final of the Australian Open." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weir ditches fur

American figure skater Johnny Weir is replacing the fox on one of his costumes with faux fur after he and his costume designer were targeted by an animal rights group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

On a collision course

Traditional favourites Canada, U.S. expected to play for gold

Four years ago, Sweden rocked the women's hockey world by upsetting the United States in the semifinals at the Turin Olympics.

But don't expect a repeat in Vancouver.

While Finland and Sweden appear to be closing the gap between the North Americans and Scandinavians, the traditional world order in women's hockey will likely be re-established at the 2010 Games.

The Canadian and American hockey federations have put the full weight of their resources behind their Olympic teams and their preparation surpasses any other country.

For that reason, defending champion Canada and the U.S. are expected to meet for the gold medal Feb. 25 at Canada Hockey Place.

On the web

Learn more about the Canadian roster in an interactive profile at **metronews.ca/sports**

Sweden's semifinal win in Turin marked the first time Canada and the U.S. didn't meet in an Olympic or world championship final. Canada defeated the Swedes 4-1 for gold.

The Americans were ill-prepared in 2006. The players did not practise or play as many games together as they had for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. It showed.

The U.S. didn't skimp on preparation this time. Non-college players spent all of last winter together in Blaine, Minn. They were joined in August by collegiate players taking the school year off to play in the Olympics.

The U.S. has been the dominant country heading into the Games after winning back-to-back world championships for the first time. Only recently has Canada, winner of two straight Olympic gold medals, regained the upper hand against their American rivals with a 7-3 record in exhibition and tournament games since Aug. 1.

When women's hockey made its Olympic debut in Nagano, Japan in 1998, the U.S. won the first Olympic gold medal. Four years later, Canada took the gold in Salt Lake.

The U.S. aims to beat the Canadians on their home soil this time.

"We're not in this to finish second," says U.S. head coach Mark Johnson.

On the other side of the rivalry is Canada's Melody Davidson of Oyen, Alta. She was the only female head coach at the 2006 Olympics and remains so in 2010.

The queen of preparation, Davidson left nothing to chance in 2006. No country was as ready as Canada and she's kept the same approach for 2010.

By the time the Canadians open against Slovakia on Feb. 13, they will have played 55 games against local men's midget triple-A teams and women's international squads.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PHILLIP MACCALLUM/GETTY IMAGES

Hayley Wickenheiser of Team Canada skates during a game against Team USA at Scotiabank Place on Jan. 1 in Ottawa.

Games in brief

MONEY Bilked out of more than $7,300 US in a Vancouver Olympic home rental scam, U.S. bobsledder Steve Mesler's family and friends are getting their money back. Procter& Gamble said Thursday it will cover the group's losses, a gesture that Mesler said left him and his family "overwhelmed."

QUAD Canada's Patrick Chan has decided to shelve the quad jump for the Vancouver Olympics. The 19-year-old from Toronto had been cultivating the four-rotational jump over the past couple of months, but has never done one in competition and said attempting it at the Games would be too risky.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hockey millionaires will share same housing as rest of Olympians

VILLAGE Steve Yzerman and Mario Lemieux shared a room on the eve of one of the most important games in Canadian hockey history.

There was no five-star resort for Team Canada at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City and there won't be at the Vancouver Games either.

Instead, the millionaire hockey players will be staying in the Olympic village alongside speedskaters, snowboarders and other athletes competing in Vancouver. The accommodations aren't exactly spartan but they're not quite as fancy as the places NHL teams typically call home on the road.

"Hockey Canada, the players, the whole hockey movement wants to stay in the village and be a part of the Olympic Games." Johnny Misley, Hockey Canada

Team Canada is in a different tax bracket than your average Olympian. Its combined player income is more than $120 million US this season.

The $1-billion Olympic village in Vancouver will be converted to condos after the Games. Of the 1,100 units available, 737 will be available as condos, with the remaining used as affordable housing and rental properties. Condo prices range from $450,000 to $10 million.

Team Canada has called the village home in every Olympics involving NHL players — Nagano in 1998, Salt Lake City in 2002 and Turin in 2006. And there wasn't much of a discussion about whether that tradition would continue in Vancouver.

"Hockey Canada, the players, the whole hockey movement wants to stay in the village and be a part of the Olympic Games," said Hockey Canada vice-president Johnny Misley, who is overseeing the organization's logistics for Vancouver. "The simple answer to that one is why wouldn't we?"

Compare that to U.S. basketball's "Dream Team," which elects to arrange its own Olympic accommodations and famously stayed on a luxury cruise liner during the Athens Games in 2004.

When the NBA stars first competed at the Olympics in 1992, the U.S. team's decision to take up occupancy at a $900-per-night hotel rather than the Olympic village made big news in Barcelona, prompting outspoken basketball star Charles Barkley to remark: "I'm a black millionaire —I've earned the right to stay where I want to stay."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Movies&Entertainment

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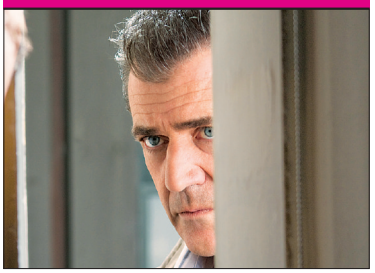
Movies

‘Extreme’ emotion Pg 20

Channing Tatum talks to Metro about opening up his emotional side in the new Nicholas Sparks adaptation, Dear John.

Movies Pg 21



Mel Gibson is back on the Edge of Darkness.

Alan Cross Pg 26

Check out the musical history of mobile devices.

Television Pg 28

Leno just wants to erase the drama of the last six months.

“A THRILL RIDE!”
Mark S. Allen, *CBS-TV*

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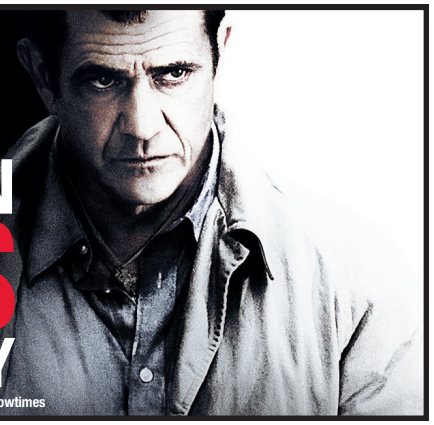

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At a glance
When in Rome ●½, Edge of Darkness ●●●●, Crazy Heart ●●●½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Tatum, all raw and naked

Heartthrob digs deep for Dear John role

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Movie **feature**

Channing Tatum has worked in his fair share of genres, from indie films (A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints) to dance flicks (Step Up) to blockbusters (G.I. Joe). In his latest, Dear John, the Alabama native takes on a heavy Nicholas Sparks love story under the direction of Lasse Hallstrom, who's no stranger to pulling breakthrough performances out of young actors.

"Lasse's a beast," Tatum says of his Swedish director.

"He has an allergic reaction to anything that's false. Even down to wardrobe. You don't argue. But acting-wise, he really gives you freedom. It's nerve-wracking and it makes you work harder."

Tatum remembers Hallstrom encouraging him to open up the way Leonardo DiCaprio did for What's Eating Gilbert Grape? That role led to DiCaprio's first Oscar nomination.

"He's says he's going to give you the same freedom he gave Leo in Gilbert Grape," Tatums says. "I had no idea what that meant. I was like, 'So you want me to be mentally challenged?'"

Part of preparing for Dear John, in which Tatum plays a young soldier torn between true love and duty, involved getting to know some actual Special Forces soldiers, many of whom appeared as extras in the film.

"They are gun-slingers," Tatum says of the soldiers he met. "They want to go. They view it as, like, recess. They get to go blow stuff up every day. When you get them away from their military stuff, they're just normal kids that are just a little crazier than most. And they're all insanely intelligent as well."

Tatum himself is a fan of blowing stuff up, but he admits acting in action films isn't quite the same as actually working with explosives.

"The blowing up stuff is fun, but they never let the actors be around that stuff. That's the stunt guys," he says.

That's why he prefers dramatic work like Dear John, he insists.

"Doing the emotional side is such a more extreme way to experience a film and to experience a character," he says.

"It's raw — naked at times. It's kind of scary because acting is one of the one jobs where you never really know if you got it right."

Dear John opens next week

Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried pair up in Dear John.

On the web

- For trailers, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Clint an American fave: Poll

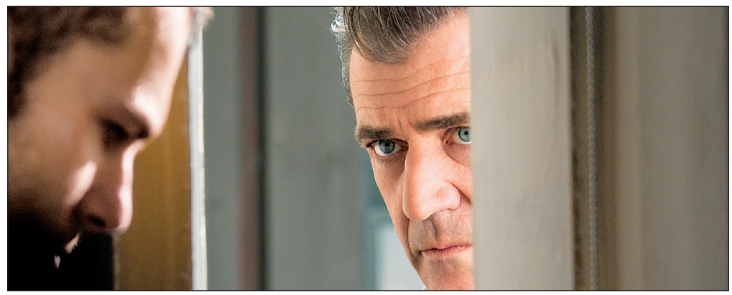
Clint Eastwood, everyone's favourite bounty hunter / maverick cop / grumpy old man, has knocked Denzel Washington from his three-year perch as America's favourite star, this year's Harris Poll reveals. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Edge of Darkness entertaining thriller



Mel Gibson plays a detective trying to solve his daughter's murder in Edge of Darkness.

Edge of Darkness
Director: Martin Campbell
Stars: Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Classification: 14A
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Edge of Darkness is surprisingly satisfying, a small, taut thriller with enough fury and bursts of sudden violence to draw plenty of comparisons to last year's Taken.

While trying to solve his daughter's murder, an aging detective (Mel Gibson) stumbles into a vast corporate and government conspiracy, mucking things up enough for the power players to call in a high-priced clean-up man (Ray Winstone).

The driving force is Gibson, in a lead role for the first time since 2002's Signs. His features lend themselves perfectly to an emotionally stunted man dealing with dueling swells of grief and rage.

This isn't really anything new for Gibson, who's been playing characters out for vengeance since Mad Max.

But Edge of Darkness does a great job of illustrating why he keeps coming back to these types of damaged, possessed men.

The only real misstep in the film is Gibson's Boston accent, which slips freely between a Good Will Hunting caricature and completely nonexistent. And the screen could've benefited from a bit more time with Winstone's mysterious fixer, but what scenes he does occupy are some of the best in the movie.

• For a trailer of Edge of Darkness, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies.

Bridges on top of his game in Heart

Crazy Heart
Director: Scott Cooper
Stars: Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal
Classification: STC
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐½

Jeff Bridges stars in Crazy Heart.

REVIEW In some not too far-fetched parallel universe, Jeff Bridges really might be living the life of a boozy country singer.

Bridges seems like the real thing in Crazy Heart, rasping out songs in the comfortable remnants of a whiskey-and-tobacco-seared voice that you might swear you've heard on a hundred jukeboxes.

It's not a great singing voice, but it's soulful, and Bridges matches it with one of the finest performances of his career, just playing the hell out of this guy whose self-abuse has carried him to a precipice where he either leaps into the pit or turns back and cleans up.

Academy Awards buzz is swirling around Bridges, nominated four times previously without a win. Crazy Heart feels like a potential Oscar winner for Bridges, who has a nice good-luck charm tagging along in co-star Robert Duvall, the 1983 best-actor winner for 1983's Tender Mercies, another story of a downtrodden country singer.

Adapted by first-time director Scott Cooper from Thomas Cobb's novel, the film casts Bridges as Bad Blake, an apt name for this wreck of a musician who has spoiled his many marriages, his career, his liver and lungs — pretty much everything a man can ruin.

Bad's still chugging through the heartland in his behemoth of a 1970s SUV, playing in dive bars and bowling alleys with pickup bands from town to town.

His audiences are small but adoring, even when he's so drunk he has to dart offstage to throw up in a trash can in a back alley, leaving the backup musicians to perform the song he's just dedicated to a wide-eyed fan.

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Scoring Olivia Newton-John

Music icon Olivia Newton-John — best known for her starring role in the film Grease – will star in Michael McGowan's Score: A Hockey Musical, which starts shooting in Toronto next month. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

It's La Dolce vapid in Rome

Josh Duhamel and Kristen Bell star in When In Rome.

When In Rome
Director: Mark Steven Johnson
Stars: Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel
Classification: PG
Rating: ●½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

When in Rome, the saying goes, do as the Romans do. But Mark Steven Johnson's comedy seems content merely to ape the behaviour of a zillion light romantic farces before it. The idea of an uptight career woman (in this case, Veronica Mars' Kristen Bell) letting her hair down in the face of true love is at least as old — and dusty — as the Colisseum.

Ah, but there's a magic-realist twist: Pulling bridesmaid duty at her sister's wedding in the old country, Bell meets a dashing dude (Josh Duhamel), gets miffed when she sees him with another woman, does a drunken Dolce Vita style vamp in a piazza fountain and plucks out five coins, invoking the wrath of some ancient love god — or hack screenwriters — and turning their original owners into comically love-struck stalker-suitors (a motley quartet numbering John Heder, Danny DeVito, Will Arnett and Dax Sheppard, the latter in amusing Zoolander-lite mode).

What's really odd about When in Rome is its uncertainty of tone.

As premises go, this falls somewhere between "strained" and "really silly," but what's really odd about When in Rome is its uncertainty of tone. One the one hand, Johnson seems to be going for a gentle, fairy-tale atmosphere — which is appropriate since the film has been produced by Disney — but there are also too many wink-wink innuendoes for a family audience. Johnson also attempts some weak hipster pandering by putting Heder in a scene with his Napoleon Dynamite sidekick Efren Ramirez (a.k.a. Pedro).

It's a desperate stab for cred in a movie that doesn't have much to speak of beyond cameos by Angelica Huston and Shaquille O'Neal.

• For a trailer of When In Rome, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies.

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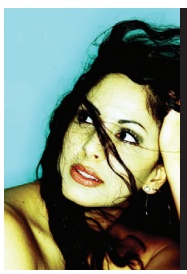

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Movie morsels

The Book of Eli
●●●

REVIEW There's much to like about the long-awaited return of the Hughes Brothers. In hiding since 2001's From Hell, the filmmaking siblings rebound in style by bringing Hell to Earth — quite literally. America has been churned to rubble following a devastating war. Destined to "stay on the path," a drifter named Eli (Denzel Washington) protects a sacred Bible from thieves and killers as he wanders westward following his destiny. It's a tricky role, playing a sanctified sinner, so luckily Washington gives it life even while surrounded by supporting parts that seem fashionably cookie-cutter.

Steve Gow/for Metro Canada

The Lovely Bones
●●●½

REVIEW Adapting a novel into a two-hour film is tricky business. Filmmakers can create calamity just as much by staying to true to the source material as they can with sweeping diversions from the book. The problem with Peter Jackson's The Lovely Bones, based on Alice Sebold's bestselling novel, is that it's too faithful. The core story of the film — 14-year-old Susie Salmon watches from beyond the grave as her family copes with her murder — works just fine, and the three actors at the heart of it (Saoirse Ronan as Susie, Mark Wahlberg as her father and Stanley Tucci as her murderer) turn in outstanding performances, with Wahlberg possibly the best he's been. It's a shame the rest of the cast doesn't have as much to do.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

Leap Year
●●

REVIEW It's common knowledge that Amy Adams is quite a talented actress. Some might point to her Oscar nominations as proof, but the best evidence of her skills just might be Leap Year. It's not that Leap Year is Amy Adams' best film, in fact it's probably her worst film. It's just that her character is so shrill, shallow, and one-dimensional that she should be loathsome. Yet Adams somehow makes you care about the character by fully committing. **Phil Brown/for Metro Canada**

Youth in Revolt
●●●½

REVIEW Youth in Revolt is the new Ferris Bueller's Day Off. It's a film about the benefits of behaving badly and, like the famous 1986 John Hughes movie, it is headlined by an actor who brings charm and wit to the role of the rebel. Hoodie heartthrob Michael Cera plays fourteen-year-old Nick Twisp, a mild mannered collection of raging hormones and quirky personality traits. When his family relocates to a Christian trailer park he meets his dream girl, Sheeni Saunders (Portia Doubleday). When circumstance steps in to keep them apart he reverses his goody-two-shoes image and becomes a rebel with a cause — he wants to impress her.

Richard Crouse/For Metro Canada

Poltergeist star dies at 76

Zelda Rubinstein, the 4-foot-3-inch character actor best known as Tangina, the psychic who tries to calm a family inhabiting a haunted house in the 1982 horror film Poltergeist, has died. She was 76. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

When in Rome ...

According to Italian director Federico Fellini, "Rome is the most wonderful movie set in the world."

A quick IMDB check reveals thousands of movies shot in the ancient city — everything from forgettable fare like The Exorcism of Baby Doll to classics like The Bicycle Thief. The latest movie to use the Eternal City as a backdrop is When in Rome, a new Kristen Bell rom com opening this weekend.

The most famous Rome scenes in cinema are arguably Gregory Peck teasing Roman Holiday's Audrey Hepburn by putting his hand in the Mouth of Truth, which purportedly bites off the hands of liars, and La Dolce Vita's iconic image of Anita Ekberg standing in the Trevi Fountain but for my lira the famous last scene of Fellini's Roma is the most spectacular.

"Rome used to be a dark city; the monuments unlit. When Fellini shot Roma ... the monuments were all lit and we saw them at night for the first time. Beautiful!" Actress Claudia Ruspoli

The sight of a gang of motorcyclists driving through the city, past such landmarks as the Colosseum, the Capitoline Museum and the Forum, is breathtaking. Actress Claudia Ruspoli says it was an eye opener for Italians as well.

"Rome used to be a dark city; the monuments unlit," she said. "When Fellini shot Roma that summer, the monuments were all lit and we saw them at night for the first time. Beautiful!"

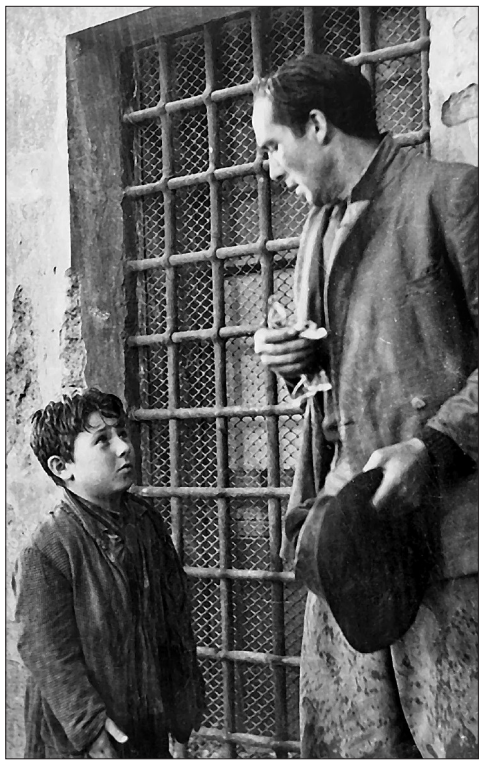
A grittier vision of Rome appears in Roberto Rossellini's Rome, Open City. Mixing documentary footage of German troops on Rome's streets with a fictionalized story of Italian resisters on the lam from the Gestapo Rossellini created a new film genre — Italian neo-realism — and by moving the camera outside studio walls, using real locations, available light and nonprofessional actors, provides a real life glimpse of war ravaged Rome.

More polished than Rome, Open City is Vittorio De Sica's Bicycle Thief. It's still neorealist, but where Rossellini struggled to cobble together bits of film stock to complete his film, resulting in an uneven look, Bicycle Thief is beautifully photographed. The story of a poor man searching for the person who stole his bike plays like a walking tour of late 1940s Rome.

Since then hundreds of films have shot on the streets of Rome and while the city has been kind to the movies, the movies have also been kind to Rome.

Patrizia Prestipino, head of Rome's provincial department of tourism views any film set in Italy as "free advertising" and notes that the release of movies like Angels and Demons has created a new industry in the country — movie tourism.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.



Vittoria De Sica's neorealist classic Bicycle Thief plays like a walking tour of 1940s Rome.

A Pudding parade for Hathaway

HONOUR Oscar-nominated actress Anne Hathaway is getting a good-natured ribbing from Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals student drama troupe.

The group's Woman of the Year was being honoured Thursday with a parade down Massachusetts Avenue near the university, followed by a roast where she will receive her pudding pot from Harvard men in drag.

Hathaway was nominated for an Academy Award for best actress in 2009 for her role in Rachel Getting Married.

She has also been in The Princess Diaries, Get Smart and The Devil Wears Prada.

She joins a distinguished list of past recipients that includes Katharine Hepburn, Lauren Bacall and Meryl Streep.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cineplex | Empire | Landmark | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 29 TO THURS., FEB. 5. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-5-8:35
Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-7:25-9:55
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:50-9:20
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:35-6:55-9:35
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:20-9:40
Invictus (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:45-9:30
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-7:10-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7-9:25
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:05
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:05-9:45

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5-7:15
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:40
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:35-10:25
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7-9:45 Wed 4-7-9:45 Thu 1-4-7-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05
Legion (18A) Fri 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:25 Sat 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:25
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 11
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 1:05
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:10
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:45-9:30
When in Rome (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:35-2:55-5:05-7:25-9:50 No Passes Wed 5:05-7:25-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:35-2:55-5:05-7:25-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri-Sun 7:30-9:55

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Avatar (PG) Fri-Thu 9:25
Crazy Heart (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12-3:50-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Creation (PG) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:40 Mon-Thu 6:40
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 11:50-3-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
A Single Man (STC) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Up in the Air (14A) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:30-9:10
Avatar 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-1-4-4:30-8-9:30
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:40-6:45-9:50
The Book of Eli (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:40-7:30-10:15
Daybreakers (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 10:15
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:9:45
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sat 12:50-3:30-7:10-9:55 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Sun 12:50-9:55 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 12:50-3:30-7:10-9:55
It's Complicated (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:10-9:55
Leap Year (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 6:40-9:15
Legion (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:20-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:20-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:05-7:05-10:05
Sherlock Holmes (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-9:50
The Spy Next Door (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-3:20
Tooth Fairy (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:45-6:55-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:10-3:45-6:55-9:30
Up in the Air (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:15-10
When in Rome (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3-7:05-9:25
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 5
Youth in Revolt (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:40

Extraordinary Measures stars Brendan Fraser.

Avatar continues to go strong at theatres.

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:30-6:50
Avatar 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-2-4-6:30-8-10
The Book of Eli (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20
Edge of Darkness (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:10-10:10
Extraordinary Measures (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:15-6:40
It's Complicated (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:30
Legion (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:45-10:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:45-10:30
The Lovely Bones (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:20-7:10:15
Tooth Fairy (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:50
When in Rome (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4:10-7:15-9:40

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Digiscreen Opera: As You Like It (STC) Sat 10
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-3:10-7 Mon-Thu 7
High Life (18A) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:15-7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 9

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
3 Idiots (PG) Fri-Thu 2-8
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:55-9:50
Dulha Mil Gaya (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45
Invictus (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:45
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:10
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-9:55
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:40
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:40

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Tue 11:40-2-4:30-7:10 Wed 11:40-2-4:30 Thu 11:40-2-4:30-7:10
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri 11:30-12:15-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25-11:10 Sat 12:15-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25-11:10 Sun-Thu 11:30-12:15-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri 11:45-3:15-7:10:30 Sat 10-1:30-5-8:30-12 Sun-Thu 11:45-3:15-7:10:30
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Wed 1:05-4:10-7:25-10:20 Thu 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:20
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:25 Sun 1:15-4:20-10:25 Mon-Wed 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:25 Thu 1:15-4:20-10:25
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-4:15-7:15-10:30
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 7:25-10:15
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Thu 10
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:50
Legion (18A) Fri-Thu 1:3:50-7:15-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-7-10:05
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 11
A Prairie Home Companion: Live in HD (STC) Thu 6
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 11:50-2:15-4:55-7:20 Thu 11:50-2:15-4:55
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:15-6:50-10:05
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:05-4:40
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:40-7-9:45 Thu 3:40-7-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Up in the Air (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:20
When in Rome (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:50-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Thu 4:40-7:05-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 6
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-5-7:20-10:10

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Assume Nothing (14A) Sat 9
Deep Red (STC) Thu 9:30
An Education (PG) Fri 4:45 Sat 12:30 Sun 12:30-4:45-9:15 Mon 4:45-9:15 Tue 9:15 Wed 4:45 Thu 4:30
Junior (STC) Wed 7
Last Year in Marienbad (STC) Tue 7
No Country for Old Men (18A) Sat 4:30 Wed 10:30
Official Rejection (STC) Fri 7
Only When I Dance (PG) Sun 3
Prairie Tales 11 (14A) Sun 7
Queer China, Comrade China (STC) Fri 9:45
Rev: A Buried Treasure (STC) Mon 7
Roadsworth: Crossing the Line (PG) Sat 7
The Sea Inside (PG) Thu 6:30
A Serious Man (14A) Sat 2:30 Wed 8:45

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

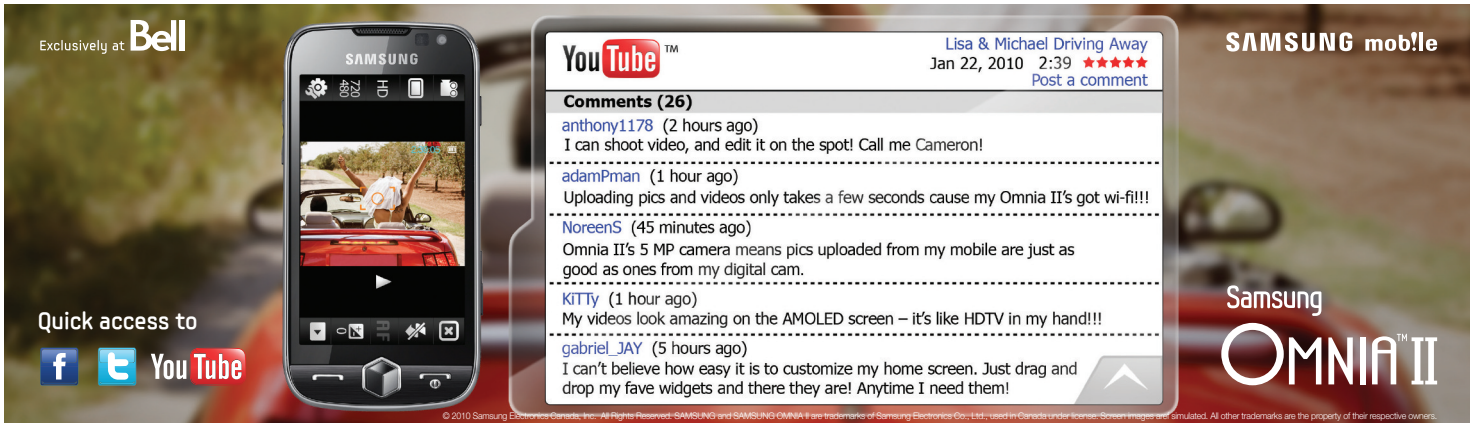
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-6:35
Avatar 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-12:3-4-6:45-8-10:30
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:05-10:05
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:35-3:40-7:25-10:25
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:05-7:10-9:55
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Thu 3:10-6:50-9:50
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25
Legion (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:15-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:45-7-10:20
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12:50
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:20-6:55-10:15
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Sat 11:55-2:40-6:40-9:25 Sun 11:55-2:40-9:25 Mon-Tue 11:55-2:40-6:40-9:25 Wed 4-6:40-9:25 Thu 11:55-2:40-6:40-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:35-6:30-9:20
Veer (14A) Fri-Thu 3:55-7:30
When in Rome (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:50-3:25-7:20-10 No Passes Wed 3:25-7:20-10 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:25-7:20-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 6

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Broken Embraces (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:15-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri 4:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:20-4:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-9:30
The Young Victoria (PG) Fri 4:50-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-4:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:10

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Avatar 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-1:40-3:40-6:30-7:40-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:35-7:10-8:50
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:10-9
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:20-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30
Legion (18A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 6-8:20
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:40
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 5-7:55
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:25
Up in the Air (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:05-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:35
When in Rome (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45



Top albums on the Billboard 200

1. Hope For Haiti Now, Various Artists; 2. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 3. The Fame, Lady Gaga; 4. Transference, Spoon; 5. 2010 Grammy Nominees, Various Artists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music

The death of romance

Sour relationships colour new album from Los Campesinos!

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

Romance Is Boring is the new album from Los Campesinos!

Finding the perfect Valentine's gift for the one you love can be a difficult undertaking. Welsh indie troupe Los Campesinos! might not have the answer, however, if you're looking for the exact opposite, well, they have "the perfect late Valentine's gift for the one you loathe" (as advertised on their blog).

The seven-piece are set to release Romance Is Boring, the title track from their new album, as a single the day after Valentine's Day.

"The opportunity to put it out so close to Valentine's was far too good an opportunity to miss," admits frontman Gareth Campesinos!. "(But) it wasn't written with Valentine's in mind. I actually like Valentine's if I'm being honest, I guess. It's probably the day of the year where it's most acceptable to get blind drunk and make an ill-advised declaration of love, and that's my specialty."

"(Valentine's Day is) probably the day of the year where it's most acceptable to get blind drunk and make an ill-advised declaration of love, and that's my specialty."
Gareth Campesinos!

On the band's third album, Gareth hits his literary stride with those signature declarations and biting slogans, but also digs deeper to present a more complicated take on soured relationships and mortality. You can practically call him an expert.

"There have been plenty of those subjects over the past couple of records, but perhaps on this occasion it's a more focused vision," he explains. "I'm 24 years old, so over the past four years being in the band I've had some of my most formative experiences, since leaving the cradle of full-time education. I've changed untold amounts as a person, and for better, for worse, this is where I'm at now."

After the double shot of 2008's Hold On Now, Youngster… and We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed, Romance Is Boring finds the band even more fertile sonically. The songs sound bigger, not to mention more intricate, having expanded their scrappy, glockenspiel-assisted lo-fi with spasmodic noise eruptions (Plan A), angular waltzing (Who Fell Asleep In) and moody electronics

Gareth has gone on the record to call it "the best record we've made by a massive stretch," but he's quick to point out how it's the band's growth that makes such a bold statement stick.

"I really like the previous two," he says with assurance. "There are issues I have with WAB, WAD, but I still think it holds up. And HON, Y … reminds me of so many overwhelming and exciting times, it just doesn't seem like me anymore. Romance Is Boring makes use of all the lessons, life and musical, that we've learnt. I guess we know how we want a Los Campesinos! album to sound now."

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Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

The new Apple iPad is a mobile tablet browsing device that is a cross between the iPhone and a MacBook laptop.

With all the hoopla surrounding Apple this week, I thought it might be fun to look back at some of the portable media devices that rocked our world.

The Regency TR-1 (1954): At $50, it was hideously expensive for its time, but those who could afford it need never share that giant console radio in the living room with mom and dad. Teenagers were free to take their own music — this new thing called "rock 'n' roll" — with them everywhere. As a result, the TR-1 and its descendents allowed rock to launch its social, economic, artistic, political and sexual revolution.

The 8-Track (1964): Jointly developed by Ford, GM, Motorola, AMPEX and the guy behind the Lear Jet company, the 8-track meant that music fans no longer had to wait for their favourite songs to come on the radio.

The Cassette (1964): Invented at the same time, the cassette needed for tape formulations to improve to the point where it sounded as good as — and eventually better than — 8-tracks. And because it was much easier to transfer music from records to cassettes, the mixtape was born. Record labels began freaking out over home taping.

The Sony Walkman TPS-L2 (1979): Look around. See all those people who have isolated themselves from the rest of humanity by plugging into some kind of device that envelopes them in their own private bubble of sound? Before the Walkman, this kind of behavior was considered to be highly antisocial. That's why the TPS-L2 originally came with two headphone jacks.

The Diamond Multimedia Rio PMP300 (1998): Not the first MP3 player — that distinction goes to the MP3 Man from a Korean company called Sae-Han — but the one that forced the courts in America to rule that such devices were, in fact, legal. Where might we be had those judges ruled the other way?

The iPod (2001): When Steve Jobs returned to Apple, he decreed that a big part of the company's future was in something he called the "digital hub," with the perfect portable music device at its core. Some 225 million units later…

The Future (2010-?): Who knows? If there's one thing we've learned since the TR-1, it's not the device itself that's important, but what the device allows us to do and the behaviors that result. Continue to expect many unintended and unforeseen consequences.

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Lachey on Taking the Stage

It's like Fame — the movie that showcased the dreams and disappointments of high school performers — but in real life.

That's how Nick Lachey describes the second season of Taking the Stage, the reality TV show that follows high school students at The School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) in Cincinnati as they work to break in to the entertainment industry. The show airs Thursdays at 11 p.m. on MTV.

"It's a great kind of learning ground for anyone who wants to be in entertainment and anyone who loves performing," says Lachey, the show's executive producer. "I think the school really prepares you for what the business is all about."

Lachey, a pop singer and actor, attended the school himself and knows firsthand the how an aspiring entertainer struggles to make it. After graduating from SCPA in 1992, he formed the boy band 98 Degrees and launched a successful solo career. In 2003-2005, he starred with then-wife Jessica Simpson in the MTV reality series Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica.

Nick Lachey

Other notable SCPA alumni include Sarah Jessica Parker, Carmen Electra and Lachey's brother and 98 Degrees alum, Drew.

This season's Taking the Stage follows Tyler, now a senior at SCPA and Mia, who has been trying to get her new band off the ground since graduation. We'll also meet new students — including Adam, Emily Silber, Emily Sones, Carlton and Ian — who all try to navigate their way to fame by way of high school.

The show resonates with viewers, Lachey says. "People are attracted to good performance and seeing young people follow their dreams," he says. "I think we see some of ourselves in kids."

THE ASSOCIATED PRES

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/29/10	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	Flashpoint (DVS)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium "Psych" (N)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	King/Queens	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Friends
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Supernanny (N)		Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS "Devil Girl"		Dollhouse (N)		Shark Tank (N)		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		The Jay Leno Show (N)		Supernanny (N)		Man Tracker		EP Daily
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium "Psych" (N)		NUMB3RS
	-	374 14 KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Washington	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Moment	Windsors
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Law & Order (HDTV)		Dateline NBC		Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Dollhouse (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		CannaBiz		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		CannaBiz
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre	Off the Record	24/7 Jimmie	Strongest Man	NFL Presents
	408	418 27 net	Boxing Jelena Mrdjenovich vs. Ann Saccurato.				Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected (N)		Ult. Fighter
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	*Liar Liar* ★★ (1997, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Maura Tierney.				That's-Weird	Fries That?	Prank Patrol
	557	541 39 FAM	Zeke & Luther	Jonas	Sonny Chance	*Hatching Pete* (2009, Comedy)			*Joey* ★★ (1997, Drama) Jamie Croft.		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*Termination Point* (2007, Suspense) Jason Priestley.				Kenny vs.
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild "Vietnam"		Machines of Malice		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild "Vietnam"		Dirty Jobs
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Best of PRIDE Fighting		Best of PRIDE Fighting		Ways to Die	Ways to Die	MANswers	MANswers	Amazing Video
	522	516 45 HIST	Blow Down		Ancients Behaving Badly		Nostradamus Effect		*The Sum of All Fears* (2002, Suspense)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *The Fugitive* ★★★ (1993, Suspense), Sela Ward				AMC News (N)		*The Amityville Horror* ★★ (1979, Horror) James Brolin.		
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Teen Mom			1 girl 5 gays	After Show	Buried	Teen Mom	

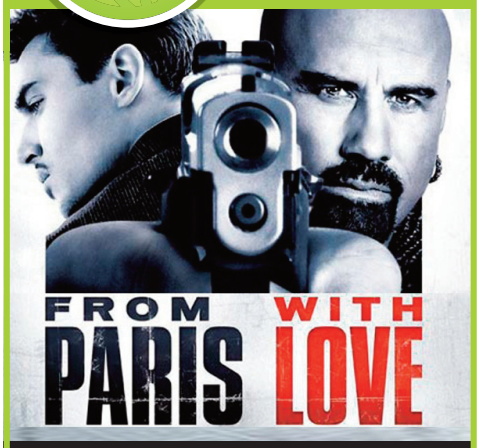
SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/30/10	243	317 3 CFCN	W5 (N) (DVS)		*Crazy Canucks* (2005, Docudrama) Lucas Bryant.				Law & Order: Special Victims		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	*Ballad of the Yellow River* ★★ (1990, Drama) Yu Lin.				Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family"				Castle
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC: After Hours	
	244	338 7 CICT	renegadepress	Jane Show	*Ice Blues* (2008, Mystery) Chad Allen, Sebastien Roberts.				Love-Death	G-Spot	News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Cooking	Most Amazing	Peoples Choice Music Awards		*Deadly Encounter* (2004, Suspense) Laura Leighton. (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		*The Magic of Ordinary Days* (2005, Drama) Keri Russell.				48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	(9:05) *Carousel* ★★★ (1956, Musical) Gordon MacRae.				
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	College Basketball Gonzaga at San Francisco.			Truth in Motion: Vancouver		Law & Order "Doped"		Law & Order
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "97 Seconds"		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Charles Other Mistress		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Mistress
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Curling Scotties Tournament of Hearts.			SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Boxing Jesse Brinkley vs. Curtis Stevens.		
	408	418 27 net	Soccer Teams TBA.				Skiing FIS Freestyle: Moguls 2.		Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad (N)	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite/Deck	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*Batman & Robin* ★ (1997, Action)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped "A Nori Story"		Top Chef Masters		The F Word		River Cottage Treatment		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	(6) *Gone in Sixty Seconds* ★ (2000)			Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(10:01) *Gone in Sixty Seconds* (2000)		
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *Click*	About a Girl	Slings and Arrows		*Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists* (2008, Fantasy)				*Heartbreak Kid*
	520	505 35 DISC	Dirty Jobs		Verminators "Rats! Bats!" (N)		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Dirty Jobs		Destroyed
	628	584 43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC 107: Penn vs. Sanchez (HDTV) (N)					UFC 109 Countdown	
	522	516 45 HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		*The Kingdom* ★★ (2007, Action)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Space Cowboys* ★★★ (2000, Adventure)				*Behind Enemy Lines* ★★ (2001, Action) Owen Wilson, Gene Hackman.				
	581	566 102 MTV	Over the Bolts	Over the Bolts	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/31/10	243	317 3 CFCN	Lost "Pilot" (Part 1 of 2)		Lost "Final Chapter" (N)		Cold Case		Desperate Housewives		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Without a Trace		Aaram	Chardi Kalaa	Bollywood Boulevard		Hockey	Canadians	Solo Flight
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Cougar Basket	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	245	306 6 CBRT	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Love Letters (N) (DVS)		Just for Laughs Cupidity		CBC News: The National		Doc Zone
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9-Picture	Family	ET Canada Red Carpet		The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards Excellence in the recording industry.				
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Survivorman (DVS)		Crusoe
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards Excellence in the recording industry.				
	-	374 14 KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford		Nature (HDTV) (N) (DVS)		Masterpiece Classic (N)		Magic Never Ends-Lewis		MI-5
	-	370 16 KHQ	News	Mark Few	Dateline NBC				Saturday Night Live Presents: Sports All-Stars		
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Mirror Mirror"		To Be Announced		The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		*Bigger, Stronger, Faster* ★★★ (2008, Documentary)				CBC News: The National		*Bigger, Strong*
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State/Union
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Curling Scotties Tournament of Hearts.			SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Tennis Australian Open, Men's Final.		
	408	418 27 net	Hockey Ottawa at Oshawa.		Skiing FIS Ski Cross.		Skiing		Sportsnet Connected		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Nacho Libre* ★★ (2006, Comedy) Jack Black.				SpongeBob	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite/Deck	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*Nancy Drew* ★★ (2002, Mystery)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Jamie's Ministry of Food		Iron Chef
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *The Da Vinci Code*		Cra$h & Burn		*Lost in the Dark* (2007, Suspense) Mae Whitman.				Damages
	520	505 35 DISC	42 Ways to Kill Hitler (N)		MythBusters (N)		Anthony Bourdain		Hitler's Hidden City		Kill Hitler
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Driven to Kill* (2009, Action) Steven Seagal, Dan Payne.				*Kill Switch* (2008, Action) (HDTV) Steven Seagal, Isaac Hayes.				*Urban Justice*
	522	516 45 HIST	Inside the Vietnam War		Inside the Vietnam War		Dogfights		*Rescue Dawn* ★★★ (2006, War)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Alien Resurrection* ★★ (1997)			*Stargate* ★★ (1994, Science Fiction) Kurt Russell, James Spader.					Movies Shook
	581	566 102 MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	After	Cribs	Cribs

club metro WEEKLY REWARDS



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Mesnick to wed Malaney

The Bachelor's Jason Mesnick will wed Molly Malaney, whom he met on the 13th season of the show, on ABC March 17. The two-hour special will also feature Malaney, 24, going to dress fittings and planning the event. USMAGAZINE.COM

Television

Tarnished reputation?

Only time will tell if Leno can win over late night in March

Certainly Jay Leno would love to wake up to find that the last six months was just a nightmare.

That way, he'd be preparing another Tonight show monologue, not going on the national shrink's sofa across from Oprah Winfrey, as he was Thursday. He wouldn't have seen a photo of himself doctored to look battered on the cover of Entertainment Weekly, symbolizing television's biggest flop ever. And he wouldn't have heard the rough jokes with the serious subtext that he had sandbagged Conan O'Brien.

NBC is hoping that it all goes away, too. The network won't know until March 1 whether he's been permanently damaged or not by the disastrous decision to try him in prime time and the clumsy way he recovered his old job. March 1 is when Leno returns to late night, opposite David Letterman on CBS.

"He's going to be competitive and I think his audience is going to come back over time," says Jeff Gaspin, NBC Universal Entertainment chairman.

Except for the Winfrey interview, Leno will do little talking after his 10 p.m. EST show ends Feb. 9, making way for coverage of the Winter Olympics. NBC will promote his return to late night but in a low-key fashion since it's been only a few months that it hyped his prime time show, Gaspin said.

"We're going to do it with a little humour and we're going to do it with a little wink to the audience," he said. "We know they know what's going on."

The 10 p.m. show, cancelled because affiliates complained about its low ratings, instantly transformed Leno's public image into that of a failure after a 15-year run as the king of late-night television.

Meanwhile, his Tonight show successor, Conan O'Brien, despite being a ratings failure himself, became a folk hero when he wouldn't accept NBC's plan to move his Tonight show to 12:05 a.m. EST to accommodate Leno's shortened comedy program. Leno has been vilified for taking back a job he plainly didn't want to leave in the first place, despite promising more than five years ago that he would.

Jimmy Kimmel, in a brutal appearance on Leno's own show, was asked about the best prank he had ever pulled and said: "I told a guy that five years from now, I'm going to give you my show. And then when the five years came, I gave it to him. And then I took it back almost instantly. I think he works at Fox or something now."

Critic Aaron Barnhart said Leno was half-cockroach, half-cicada, who "would do and say anything to keep his famous chin in front of the cameras."

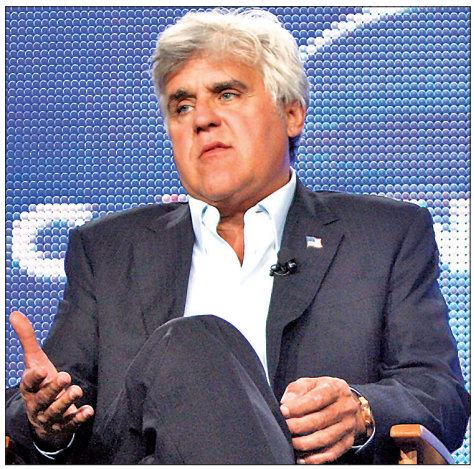
Comic writer Joe Queenan, in The Wall Street Journal, compared the late-night situation to Europe in the 1930s. Leno, he wrote, "much like Adolf Hitler, is a master at making secret demands for foreign territory and then acting like the wronged party."

It's satire, yes. But Adolf Hitler?

"Unfortunately, it got a little nasty," Gaspin said. "But I also think it was short-lived. It was of the moment and it ratchetted up and it also ratcheted down pretty quickly as well."

While Leno was in prime time, longtime rival Letterman took over as the most popular late-night comic. That crown might not be so easy to reclaim, said David Bianculli, who teaches a course in late-night television at Rowan University and is author of a new book on the Smothers Brothers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Returning Tonight show host Jay Leno has been vilified for taking back a job he plainly didn't want to leave in the first place, despite promising more than five years ago that he would.

Talk show veteran on Oprah

• Jay Leno says he "felt really bad" for Conan O'Brien. Leno told Oprah Winfrey on Thursday's episode of her talk show that he thinks what happened to O'Brien is "unfair." Leno also says he has "regrets" that the situation wasn't handled better — but he isn't sure what he could have done differently. He told Winfrey that NBC executives asked him to leave Tonight in 2004 because they wanted to give the program to O'Brien.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elfman finds the funny in everyday life

Jenna Elfman knows comedy. She starred in Dharma&Greg from 1997-2002 and won a Golden Globe Award and was nominated twice for an Emmy.

Now, Elfman plays a 30-ish movie critic who has a one-night stand with a guy in his 20s on CBS' Accidentally on Purpose.

She ends up pregnant and the two decide to raise the baby together. Elfman, 38, who is pregnant with her second child in real life, talks about her show and finding the funny in life.

Q Do you like the pairing of your character, Billie, and the father of her child, Zach, on Accidentally on Purpose?

A I like playing them as a couple because they're so different and they have such a great friendship, and it's been a lot of fun playing it and I'm kind of liking playing that.

Q Will future episodes focus more on the age difference between Zach and Billie?

A It's always going to present difficulties and their whole point of reference is different… It's someone who has a lot of life experience and someone with minimal life experience trying to raise a kid and find out who they are together.

Q Is playing pregnant while you're pregnant easier?

A The whole universe of being pregnant is a very specific, particular sensation for a woman so being pregnant while playing pregnant is really cool.

Q Your comedic timing is interesting and you're great with snappy dialogue. Do you work at that?

A It's nothing I sit around and think about… I just love comedy and I love sitcoms. I think if you really look, there's a lot that's funny in life… I'm always people-watching like nonstop, and I think doing that I've become educated into humorous rhythms from different moments in life.

Q Some actors say it's harder to be funny.

A I think so because you have to have the same level of belief that you have when you're doing drama but make people laugh on top of it. It's an added duty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor Jenna Elfman.

Smash-hit smooch
Madonna and Britney Spears' kiss at the MTV Video Music Awards has been voted the most famous smooch of the last decade, according to the poll conducted by U.K. department store Selfridges. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Lost art of love letters

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Despite producing the Valentine-tinged TV special Love Letters, Leah Pinsent doesn't have a romantic story surrounding her first meeting with her partner — fellow actor Peter Keleghan.

"No. We weren't star-crossed lovers or anything. It took some time," says Pinsent, who first met Keleghan when they were both starring on the CBC comedy Made In Canada in Halifax.

"I think it was fourth season in. It was a crazy love once it got started but we were both married at the start. So it was complicated. It was what it was."

Still — nine years in — it seems to be working out. So much so, the acting pair have teamed up for Love Letters — a meditation on generational love featuring excerpts from A.R. Gurney's play about would-be lovers who correspond solely through letters.

The excerpts are performed not only by Pinsent and Keleghan, but additional real life acting couples like Colin Mochrie (Whose Line Is It Anyway) and Deb McGrath (Little Mosque on the Prairie), Carlo Rota (24) and Nazneen Contractor (The Border), and Samantha Bee and Jason Jones (The Daily Show). The host is Leah's dad Gordon Pinsent.

In between excerpts from the play, the couples talk about their curious romantic lives as working actors/lovers.

"I'd seen When Harry Met Sally and I loved the parts where the real couples talk about their relationships, so we wanted to do that," says Pinsent with a laugh. "I'm just happy they're since we filmed it, our couples are all still together."

Pinsent says actors hooking up is no different than any two people with similar goals.

Success or failure depends on the match-up.

"Some stay together. Some don't. I think maybe actors can be more emotional, personally. But it ultimately depends on the people."

Pinsent laments the death of people actually writing letters to friends and family. Still, she admits that she isn't exactly a practitioner herself.

"I'd like to say I write letters, but I don't. I think my mother was the one who really loved to do that.

"It's a lost art I guess. Like putting photos in an album."

Love Letters airs Sunday night on the CBC

PHOTO: PROVIDED

Celebrity couple Leah Pinsent and Peter Keleghan star in Love Letters airing Sunday on CBC Television.

Mix of Six

Great Italian Wine Encounter
Jan. 28 & 29 Fairmont Palliser Crystal Ballroom

Have fun at this Gala Auction in style.

41st Annual Calgary RV Exposition & Sale
Jan. 28-31, 2010 BMO Centre, Stampede Park

This is Western Canada's largest showing of Recreation Vehicles, services and accessories.

Wine Stage
January 30, 2010 Hotel Arts

Calgary's Most Dramatic Wine Event.

Calgary Chamber of Commerce Annual Salute To Excellence
January 30, 2010, Palomino Room, BMO Centre, Stampede Park

A Salute to 2010.

Dance Salad
Jan. 29 at the University Theatre

Salsa Rica, Studio Bollywood, Nazirah Bellydancers, Micah David, Homage, David Polska and more.

Jebb Fink
Jan. 29 at Flames Central

Catch the popular Calgary news guy uncensored.

Girls Gone Wild troubles

COURTS A former sheriff's deputy facing a federal bribery charge denied Thursday she gave any special treatment to the jailed creator of the Girls Gone Wild video empire in exchange for nearly $10,000 in gifts from one of his Hollywood associates.

Former Washoe County Jail Sgt. Michon Mills took the witness stand for the first time in U.S. District Court to defend her oversight of Joe Francis while the maker of the provocative videos of naked young women was jailed in Reno on federal tax charges from June 2007 to March 2008. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 iPad
GADGET The one-button, keyboard-free slab of pure cool is being billed as a cross between a laptop and a smartphone, offering the best of both worlds. Apple says the gadget will go on sale in 60 days but no word from Canadian data carriers yet.

2 52nd Grammy Awards
SHOW This year, the women rule. Lady Gaga, Beyonce and Taylor Swift hold 23 nominations among them. Our money is on Swift, who has dominated the charts for two straight years with her country-tinged hits, but then Kanye West might have other plans. It airs Sunday on Global and CBS.

3 Lost season premiere
TV The super-twisty secrets of the crash-survivors saga will be revealed when the ABC series returns for one last time. The creators have promised Season 6 will be it, the dizzying flashbacks will be kept to a minimum and there will be plenty of bombshells. Premieres Tuesday on CTV.

4 Rebirth: Lil Wayne
ALBUM Give Weezy a bluegrass tune and he'll Auto-Tune it to kingdom come. Thankfully, the rapper just sticks to good ol' rock in his much-anticipated, frequently delayed follow-up to Tha Carter III.

5 Mass Effect 2
GAME Bioware Edmonton and Montreal joined forces to deliver this sequel to the popular action role-playing game. Nearly 100,000 people were playing it online within hours of the game's release this week.

6 Bright Star
DVD With Valentine's Day fast approaching, you could always set up a date with Hollywood romantic kitsch. Try curling up with Jane Campion's masterful Bright Star, which chronicles John Keats and Fanny Brawne.

7 Our Man In Tehran: Robert Wright
BOOK Canadian professor Richard Wright goes right into the heart of the political intrigue between Iran and the West.

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Heroes don't drink and drive

Adrian Pasdar was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. The Heroes actor, who is married to Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines, was pulled over by LA police on Wednesday, according to TMZ.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Pete, pick another pocket

PREFERABLY ONE WITHOUT COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS STUFFED INTO IT Pete Doherty has nearly as many drug and driving offenses to his name as he has years spent on this planet. On Tuesday, the Babyshambles frontman was slapped on the wrist for his latest offense — bringing 13 doses of heroin into a drunk-driving hearing, popeater.com reports. An English court handed him only a $1,400 US fine. But it's about to get worse for the embattled tabloid prince. Maybe a whole lot worse after friend Robin Whitehead was found dead of an overdose just a day after visiting the rocker, the website adds.

Doherty was in court for sentencing on Dec. 21 for June charges of driving carelessly while drunk and in possession of drugs when "13 wraps of heroin" fell from his pocket. "He was in a rush to get to court. He was handed a coat and he didn't check the pockets," his lawyer explained to the judge on Tuesday. The popular musician pleaded guilty to the December charges. He was ordered to pay $3,300 in fines and was banned from driving for 18 months. The drugs fell out of his pockets upon his exiting the courthouse.

His lawyer explained to the court that Doherty "is a recovering heroin addict and has received some very sophisticated medical treatment."

Because he is currently in treatment, and is reportedly using medical implants that cancel the effects of heroin, Judge Boparai decided against using the "public purse" to rehabilitate the singer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tiger has been a very bad boy

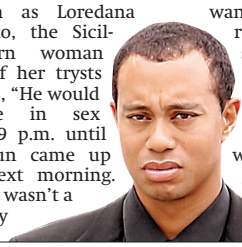
SOMEONE'S BEEN A NAUGHTY GOLFER A woman who claims to have been a paid escort for Tiger Woods doesn't think the golfer's stint in sex rehab will do the trick, usmagazine.com reports.

"I am not really sure rehab for sex addition will help him," Loredana Jolie, who claims to have slept with Woods on numerous occasions, tells the New York Post. Woods' rep would not return calls to The Post regarding her allegations.

Jolie says she worked as an escort for "madam" Michelle Braun, who claimed in December that Woods was a client. Also known as Loredana Ferriolo, the Sicilian-born woman says of her trysts Woods, "He would engage in sex from 9 p.m. until the sun came up the next morning. But he wasn't a healthy guy. He couldn't sleep and would stay up all night."

Jolie alleges that the 34-year-old golfer's sexual fantasies were "not normal." Among his supposed wants: "entertaining, role play, fetishes, stuff like that … but he would only watch … he would also ask me to text him pictures of myself when we weren't together."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

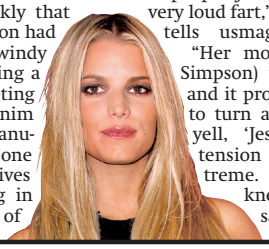


Jessica 'Farty Pants' Simpson

CLASSY, AS ALWAYS A source tells Us Weekly that Jessica Simpson had a, ahem, windy moment during a business meeting for her denim line in late January. "While one of the executives was speaking in a room full of five people, Jessica let out a very loud fart," an insider tells usmagazine.com "Her mother (Tina Simpson) was there, and it prompted her to turn around and yell, 'Jessica!' The tension was extreme. No one knew what to say."

It wasn't Simpson's first brush with public flatulence: She famously cut loose on an episode of Newlyweds, telling then-husband Nick Lachey, "You love my stinky ass," and professed her fondness for between-the-sheets poots (a.k.a. Dutch ovens) to a radio station in 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Just call him 'Prez'

IS THIS THE TYPE OF PLACE THAT THEY SHOULD SEND THIS COOL CAT? Will Smith is thinking about a career change, according to his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who's not exactly thrilled about it.

"Will is thinking about going into politics. He once said he could imagine becoming a U.S. president. He wasn't joking, he was quite serious about it," Pinkett Smith says, according to Hollyscoop. But politics isn't exactly up her alley.

"It's just not for me," she insists. Whether or not a run for the White House is in their future, Pinkett Smith says they are thinking about the bigger picture, though. "Will and I want to leave traces on this planet — and with that I mean more important traces than just films."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Husband sues studio

ALSO SUING THE GRIM REAPER Simon Monjack is planning to sue Warner Brothers for the wrongful death of his wife, Brittany Murphy, the Daily Beast reports.

Two weeks prior to Murphy's sudden death on Dec. 20 at age 32, the studio fired her from the sequel to the animated smash Happy Feet, where she was to reprise the role of penguin Gloria. "She was devastated," Monjack tells the Daily Beast's Gerald Posner. "They killed her."

Murphy's cause of death has yet to be released by the L.A. coroner's office — but Monjack and the star's mother, Sharon Murphy, both believe that the Clueless actress suffered a heart attack as a direct result of her cancelled contract.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pitter patter of tiny Ferrell feet

PLEASE LET HIS MIDDLE NAME BE 'ROSE' OR 'GREASE' Will Ferrell and his wife, Viveca Paulin, welcomed their third son, Axel, who was born last week in Los Angeles, according to People magazine. The baby was born just hours after Ferrell and Paulin appeared on the final episode of The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien, where they performed Lynard Skynard's Free Bird in full hippie garb for the outgoing NBC host. "All the Ferrells are well," the actor's rep tells the magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

TONY HAWK doesn't speak Chinese, but he can pretend, **JESSICA SIMPSON** can tell the future, **BILL COSBY** has some unwanted house guests, and **RAINN WILSON** is looking into quite a flattering mirror.

@tonyhawk Did a video yesterday for the State Dept: welcomed people to the USA Pavillion, in Mandarin (slaughtered the pronounciation). Life is weird.

@JessicaSimpson Had a dream at the start of fball season about the superbowl and I saw the colors purple and blue. Blue- Colts Purple? Will the Vikings win?

@BillCosby Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home.

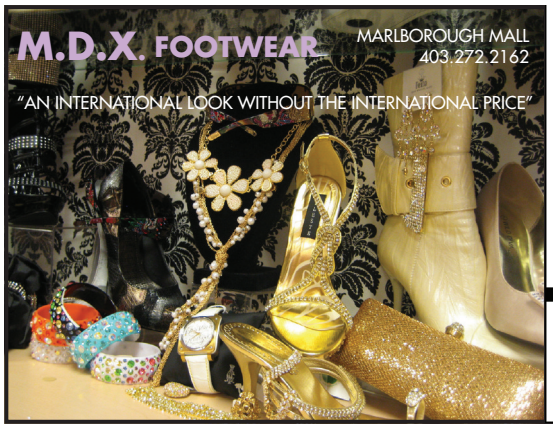
@rainnwilson I got a haircut. Now I look exactly like Matt Damon.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Charlie's angel

REMEMBER, KIDS, WISDOM-TOOTH REMOVAL AND PNEUMONIA LEAD TO DRUG ABUSE Charlie Sheen's wife, Brooke Mueller, is currently resting in a rehab facility in South Carolina, her father tells Radar Online, though he wouldn't confirm what she's in rehab for. "She is recognizing that she needs help and she can't do it on her own," Jon Fiore tells the website. "She is there. But it's a recovery place, and it is in a resort setting and the picture I'd like to paint more is that she's seeking help she wants to, she's dealing with this."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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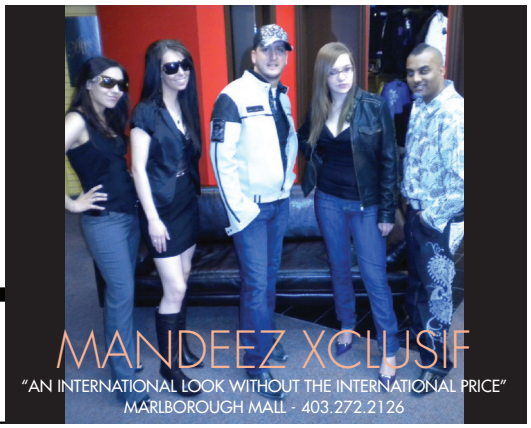

Today Mostly cloudy -2 C / -11 C
Saturday Mostly cloudy -3 C / -11 C
Sunday Mostly cloudy -8 C / -13 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

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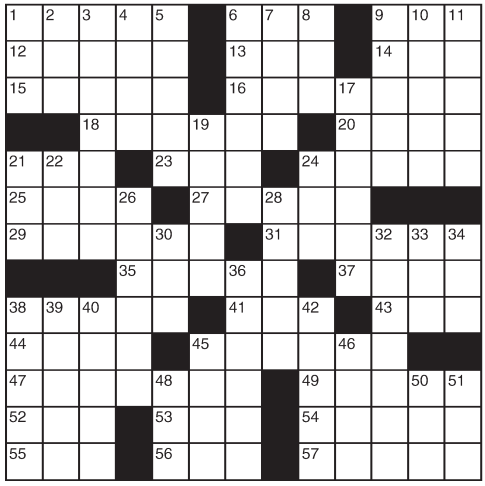
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5	9		1	4	2		
	8				6			5
			7	9				
		7				5	2	
			9		3			
	1	3				6		
				8	1			
9			2				4	
		1	4	3		8	7	

ACROSS

1 Pie maker's device, at times
6 Sch. org.
9 Burst
12 Scent
13 Work unit
14 "Hail, Caesar!"
15 Genius
16 One who's hardly humble
18 Short and thick
20 Sty cry
21 Salamander
23 Crony
24 Intersect
25 Complaint
27 Skewered entree
29 Upbraid
31 Disinclined
35 Shopping centers
37 Go sightseeing
38 Claw
41 Victory
43 Inseparable
44 Language of Pakistan
45 Tots' break time
47 Supplementary dose
49 Election tally
52 Cleo's slayer
53 Ref
54 Varnish ingredient
55 Neptune's realm
56 Derek and Diddley
57 Old episode

DOWN

1 Taxi
2 Bobby of hockey lore
3 Poultry purchase
4 Send forth
5 Accumulated, as debts
6 Little rock
7 Avoirdupois alternative
8 — Khan
9 Veranda
10 They take the cake
11 Makes coffee, maybe
17 Fruity ice
19 Rock drummer Ginger
21 Decline
22 Doctor's due
24 Cleveland cager, for short
26 Renowned
28 Fundamental
30 Catch some rays
32 Farm alarm?
33 Baltimore newspaper
34 Prior to
36 Insignificant ones
38 Brass instruments
39 Got up
40 Treatment for Parkinson's
42 When pigs fly
45 San —, Italy
46 Unrivaled
48 Jalopy among boats
50 Flightless bird
51 Break a Commandment

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4	7	3	1	2	8	6	5	9
1	6	5	4	9	3	2	7	8
2	9	8	5	7	6	1	3	4
7	5	6	9	4	2	8	1	3
3	8	1	7	6	5	4	9	2
9	2	4	3	8	1	5	6	7
5	1	9	2	3	4	7	8	6
8	3	2	6	1	7	9	4	5
6	4	7	8	5	9	3	2	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chinese Beef Noodle Soup

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 ml) soy sauce
1 tbsp (15 ml) toasted sesame oil
2 tbsp (25 ml) dry sherry
2/3 lb (300 g) lean rump steak, sliced into very thin strips
4 cups (1l) beef stock
4 scallions, sliced
5 oz (150 g) shiitake mushrooms, thickly sliced
7 oz (200 g) baby bok choy, leaves halved
8 oz (250 g) instant fine egg noodles
1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil

METHOD:
1. Combine soy sauce, sesame oil and sherry in bowl. Add strips of beef and toss until well mixed. Leave to marinate.
2. Heat stock in large pot or flame-proof casserole. Add scallions, sliced mushrooms and halved bok choy, and simmer 2 minutes.
3. Add nests of noodles to pan of vegetables and cook 2-4 minutes or until tender.
4. While noodles are cooking, heat wok or frying pan with oil and stir-fry beef until browned. Tip contents of pan into simmering stock. Bring back to boil. Taste and season with black pepper, then ladle into four serving bowls and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
With Mars, your ruler, transiting the most dynamic area of you chart good things will start happening soon.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Listen carefully to what loved ones and other family members have to tell you today because in one area at least they know what they are talking about.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It may be frustrating that you can't seem to make up your mind over something which would normally take about three seconds to deal with.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There are so many opportunities available to you now that you may find it hard to decide which ones to take advantage of.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You need to be selfish. You need to do what you want to do and if others don't like it that's too bad.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may not approve of what a friend has done but you don't intend to condemn them for it either.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If you don't know what it is you want how can you expect other people to know? The most important thing today is that you have a clear idea what to do.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
If you feel out of place in your present location then get up and go somewhere else. You are under no obligation to stay where you are.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try not to read too much into what partners and colleagues say. True, they might have chosen their words with more care, you are being too touchy.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
If a friend or relative makes a suggestion today you would do well to listen. Someone close is about to have an extraordinary insight.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You like to take risks and, most of the time, they tend to pay off, but the cosmic picture is so uncertain today that it might be wise to bet only on certainties.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There will be occasions today, and tomorrow, when it seems as if you are the only one who is out of step with the times.

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metrotube of the day

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